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Journal,

of Letters and other Documents

from the 10th July 1801. to the 27th March 1803.

By Governor Claiborne.

Department of State

11 July 180

Sir

The President of the United States

desiring of availing the public of your services

as Governor of the Mississippi Territory, I have

the honor of inclosing your Commission, and

of expressing the sentiments of respect with

which

I am, Sir

your most obedt

James Madison

William C. C. Claiborne Esqr

Thomas Jefferson, President of the

United States of America,

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Whereas the Office of Governor in and over the

Mississippi Territory is at present vacant: Now

Know ye, That reposing especial Trust and Con-

fidence in the Patriotism, Integrity and Abilities

of William C. C. Claiborne, of Tennessee, I do ap-

=point him Governor in and over the said Missi-

=ssippi Territory; and do authorize and empower

him to execute and fulfil the duties of that Office

according to Law: and to have & to hold the said

Office with all the Powers, Privileges and Emolu-

=ments to the same of right appertaining during the

of the United States for the
term of [illegible] and until the end of the next session
of the Senate of the United States, and no longer.

In testimony whereof, I have caused
these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of
the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Seal

Given under my Hand at the City of Wa-
shington the twenty fifth day of May in the year
of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one
and of the Independence of the United States
of America, the twenty fifth.

Th: Jefferson

By the President

James Madison Secretary of State

Nashville August 2nd 1801

Sir,

Your letter of the 10th ultimo enclosing me
a Commission as Governor of the Mississippi
Territory, I have had the honor to receive.—
Were you to be good enough to inform the
President of the United States, that I accept
the appointment, which he has been pleased to
confer on me, and intend to devote to the
discharge of those duties all the
[illegible] in my power.

I am also [illegible]
I am with [illegible]

to execute it with Justice — but I feel confident that my best exertions to fulfil the Intentions of the United States, to promote the immediate happiness of [redacted], over whom, I am to preside, will not be [redacted] effectual —

I shall accordingly write the Secretary, with all possible dispatch, but the probability is, that it will not be in my power, to complete the Arrangements necessary to my departure, previous to the last of next month, or the first of October — I therefore you should think proper, to make me any further Communications, in a short period, you will be pleased to forward them to this Town —

I have the honor to be
Sir,
With every sentiment of Esteem
& Respect
Your Mo. Ob. Servt.

William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble James Madison
Secretary of State —

Knoxville, September 16th 1801 —

Sir,

My Letter of the 2nd of last month, informed you that I should dispatch the Messenger, on the last of this, or the beginning of next month — I have now the pleasure to add, that the Messenger is on his way to my Government, where he is expected to arrive [redacted] from the Courts of the first Circuit in which I am engaged, that I shall be

not [illegible] matter, I can write perfect to procure
the respect, but I flatter myself, the Publick con-
=cern has not as yet, sustained injury by absence
from which I have lately received
from the Cherokee Country respecting the
affairs in that Quarter were favorable at
present, the Publick mind is tranquil, and the
Spirit considerably subsided, The United Coun-
=cil assembled on Perusal which, and I
must perfect harmony prevailing with the
Spanish & Indian Neighbors.

You could not confer on me, for a great
favor, than by giving me from time to time, in-
=structions relative to the Policy the
several Tribes wish to be pursued on our South
Western Frontier, such Instructions shall be
punctually complied with, & regard
and respect paid to the Interest of Government
In eight or ten days I shall leave this
place for my seat near Nashville, I shall
from thence forward regularly proceed with my
journal, by water to the Town of Natchez, which
I expect to arrive between the 1st & 10th of Feb-
=ruary.

Accept I pray you Sir, the very sin-
=cere assurances of my respect & consideration

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obt Servt

James Madison

The Hon. Secretary of State

Lusbville October 7th 1801.

Sir,

[redacted] shall certainly attend for the Mississippi Territory. The matter in this state remains very much as it was when I left Frankfort. I have made every exertion to reach the Seat of Settlers by the 20th of November.

The Territorial Assembly was convened by a Proclamation of Secretary Steele on the 3d Monday in July last. they continued in Session (as I am advised) about four weeks, but transacted little business, and what they did is left incomplete for want of the Governors Sanction, Colo. Steele, having been too much indisposed to attend to his Official duties.— On the 18th of last month, Colo. Steele was still ill, & his life despaired of.—

In a letter, which I have received from Judge Lewis, dated "Natchez September 3d 1801" he says, "It seems to be conformed that Spain has actually agreed to give up Louisiana to France" I know not what grounds there was for this Report, but it has prevailed in this State for several months and obtained general belief.—

On my arrival at Natchez my communications shall be of frequent occurrence.

I am &c

William C. C. Claiborne

(To Genl Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War)

Fort Pitt September 9th 1766.

Dear Sir,

In the 8th of March last I wrote you a Letter, by Lieut Cochran, which I hope reach'd your hands safely. Nothing of Importance has been necessarily done of late, to be afraid, that this delay, can otherwise be attributed to the low state of the Cumberland, Ohio, and the Mississippi Rivers, for on my part, every exertion was made to hasten my Journey.

Since the Reduction of the Mississippi, which happened, after a tedious passage, principally by the Wind's being so high, which frequently the case, during the Fall and Winter Months.

Much of the Land on the Mississippi appears to be fertile, and pretty well adapted to Cultivation, — But the extensive Country has been great Devastation, neglected by Many — On the West or Spanish Shore, there are three little Settlements between the Mouth of the Ohio, and a Small Fort, of Spanish Troops, in the distance of several of 500 Miles; so many Leagues the Mouth of Ohio, on that Passage, called Fort Madrid — The Natives of this Country, and paid my respects on Arrival, to the Commandant or Governor, who received me with great Politeness, — At this place, I found Remains of a Fort, which had been recently Burnt down by the Spaniards, consisting of five, or six Soldiers, and also 60 British

[illegible] were chiefly of [illegible]
[illegible] informed, that [illegible] the Sioux
there was a Comp[illegible] embraced Settle-
ments the Settlers [illegible] days of the Lower
States; Should not learn their removal 300 M.
from thence to the [illegible] there is another Fortress on
the Bank of the Mississippi containing about 20
Houses, 150 Miles further, & opposite it the
Chicasaw Bluffs, is a small Block House, gar-
risoned by a Serjeant and 12 Men —
On the Eastern or American Side of the
Mississippi, the only improvement, until I
had reached the Walnut Hills (which are situated
of 700 Miles from the Mouth of Ohio) was the gar-
rison at the Chicasaw Bluffs, called Fort Pick-
ering.

This Garrison has proved a great con-
venience and benefit to the Citizens who pass
the River, — The Officer Commanding at this
Post has taken great pains to afford relief to
several distressed Boats, and on some instances,
his exertions aided by his Company have res-
cued valuable property from destruction. Their
worthy Officer is a Captain of the 39th Regt.
His Lady Encountered Perils & Contributed
to rescue from the Waters of the Mississippi, the
wife & Son of an unfortunate Man, to whose
Humanity & Intrepidity the Preservation of the
Unfortunate Sufferers was [illegible]
[illegible]

military posts on the Mississippi. I suppose the Indians would not be averse to establishments of [redacted] and I am sure they would prove of great benefit to the Eastern Commerce is already considerable, and is becoming more & more every year.— The dangers and difficulties of the Mississippi would be encountered with much more cheerfulness, if the loss of property would not be so great. Were there more stations, where the citizen in distress, might apply for succour & his wants at least partially supplied.—

Colonel Steele is also leaving, & his district has assumed of late a favorable aspect;— He however too much interested to attend to Indian affairs to give me much Information as to the State of the Territory;— on this account, I feel myself under some embarrassment, from which I hope to be relieved, in a little time, by my own personal Observations.—

I submit herewith, for your perusal, Governor Sargent's extracts from which you have no doubt seen the papers) has received this Territory, in general confusion. In this perplexity, the conduct of the President in relation to Mr Sargent is applauded by all parties. His firmness & decision in opposing the encroachments of power, & his regard to the rights of citizens, will secure to him the confidence & esteem of the people. I regret that Governor Sargent should have taken part in the Controversies between the Governor & Judges— I hope endeavors will be used, to heal the breach & restore harmony

Administration, to convince the Citizens at large of
that [redacted] Mr Sargent has greatly misrepresented my
Character. —

I am [redacted] to suppose, that the
Inhabitants of Party, have of late, considerably united
in this District, and that a very great majority
of the people, are greatly disposed to give me
their most Cordial Support. —

On Tuesday next, the Legislature of
this Territory will commence its Session, and by the
next Mail you may expect from me, further Com-
munications. — In the mean time, Sir, you may
depend upon my exertions to promote the prosper-
ity and happiness of the People. I am sanguine in a
hope, that I shall be enabled to restore to this Infant
Settlement, Harmony & mutual Confidence. —

I have the honor to be Sir
with great respect
Your most ob.t Humb.e Serv.t

William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble James Madison
Secretary of State. —

Fatcher December 12th 1801

Sir,

In the [illegible] the Legislature of this
Territory convened on the next day delivered a
Message to the House of Assembly, a Copy of which
together with their answer, you will find in the
papers enclosed.—

From the little knowledge I have of this
Assembly, I will hazard an opinion, that it is
composed of honest men, much attached to the United
States, and devoted to the Interests of this Territory.

For want of Legislative Experience, their early
proceedings will, no doubt, be marked with some
Irregularities, which I trust a little time, and
their own good sense will remedy.—

I have the happiness to acquaint you
that all opposition to the Second grade of Govern-
ment has (apparently) ceased, and that the Citi-
zens generally seem contented with their political
prospects.—

By the Act of Congress authorizing
the establishment of a Government in the Mich-
igan Territory, I find that the Powers, duties &
Emoluments of an Superintendant of Indian
affairs, for the Northern Department, are vested
united with those of Governor.— How or when
this Power should be exercised, and whose du-
ty prescribed, within the Law, I do not know. I
remained at this place, I have received many ur-
gent Solicitations from the Chactaw Tribe of Indians to visit
them, by the Governor of that Nation, and

[redacted] become better known; ——— In some
few Instances, where the [redacted] good seemed to jus-
tify the measure, I have ventured to direct the
Interpreter at [redacted] these Nations to ob-
tain; — A Power, [redacted] was exercised by
my Predecessor, and has no doubt sanctioned by
the Government. —

Upon looking over the Official Letters of the
Agent on record in the Secretary's Office, I discover
that he frequently mentioned the Embarrassment
he experienced in the Indian Department, and that
some partial Instructions upon this subject, had
been given him, the contents of which, I cannot learn
since I find, that none of the Communications to
the Secretary of State, have been considered Public
Papers, & are not filed in the Office of the Secre-
tary for Perusal. —

The Chactaws from their Contiguity to the
Settlement, are frequently troublesome, & often com-
mit partial Depredations upon the Cattle of the
Inhabitants. — At other times, they receive Pri-
vileges from the Citizens, become intoxicated and
are abusive & uncivilly inclined, from these sour-
ces disputes arise, and I am looked upto, as the
Arbitrator; hence the necessity, that I should be
furnished with an Interpreter, and feeling
sensibly the want of a Character of this kind,
I beg leave to solicit the permission of the President, to
employ one

[illegible] which I

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which I fear will be attended with unfortunate consequences. An Indian of some note, among the Cherokees [redacted] days ago, left his home, and having returned, he in a little time became quite deranged with some strange and extraordinary fancies. The Indians suppose (perhaps) from the circumstance that he was dead, they have visited me on the occasion. I have taken all the means in my power to ascertain the Body of the Indian found dead, but have not succeeded to my entire satisfaction. The friends and connexions of the suspected deceased, seem much displeased, and threaten to retaliate; to seek those people and punish them, or to secure the Life of some innocent Citizen. I have subjected the United States to some little expence, and for the recovery of certain Horses, I shall stand accused.

I should state the Secretary of this Territory still continues in a low State of health, and unable to attend to business; this unfortunate circumstance has increased my responsibility, my Office &c &c

I am &c

William H. Crawford

The Honble Thomas Worthington

Secretary of State

An Address to the Governor of the Mississippi Territory from the two Houses of the Legislature.

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Council and Fellow Citizens of the House of Representatives.

Upon addressing you for the first time, in my Character as Governor of this Territory, I feel my Breast disturbed with Emotions, which I can neither suppress, nor Conceal.

An Impression of the importance of the charge committed to me, a diffidence of the sufficiency of my Talents, to discharge with propriety the various duties, which may attach to this high Station; A fear, least my best endeavours to advance the prosperity and happiness of the people, might not procure either success, or satisfaction, have all conspired to excite in my mind, much painful anxiety.

But under every discouragement which may await me, I shall experience great Relief; I shall possess, that "greatest of consolations, conscious Rectitude," for I have formed a firm Resolution, to exercise the Authority vested in me, with all that Justice, Decision and Impartiality, which my best and most deliberate Reflections may dictate. Therefore, I should commit Errors, and they unavoidably attend all human Conduct, my Heart will acquit me of Blame; those Errors will proceed from the want of Judgement, and such as generally possess that quality, are disposed to forgive and forget.

In pursuance of the Requisitions of

[illegible] to the Federal Constitution, the [illegible]
[illegible] of Language, our [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] by [illegible] Laws of the United Stat[illegible]
[illegible] Constitution, any Rule of Conduct [illegible]
With the [illegible] of the Legislature, I shall
carefully cultivate the most perfect good understa[illegible]
ing, by endeavouring to deserve, I hope to be honor[illegible]
with their Confidence & Esteem; — All Laws essen[illegible]
to the welfare of our Constituents, shall receive my [illegible]
cheerful Assent, & no exertions of mine, shall be
wanting to carry them into complete effect, —
Notice of vacancy in the Provision, for the public
Exigencies, shall always meet with my Support
on all occasions, I shall esteem it a duty to dis[illegible]
-tenance Extravagancy, & to practise that great
Oeconomy, Virtue, & Necessary, a departure from it
never fails to be accompanied with a diminution
of the general happiness. —

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and Fe[illegible]
Citizens of the House of Representatives —

Among the first Duties which were assigned me,
was, it would not be concealed, that I am unfami[illegible]
of those local Circumstances, of which those an[illegible]
wholly may require Legislative Interpositions —
that I could be sufficiently acquainted with
Operation of the existing Laws, to say, how far
are defective, — But upon this occasion, [illegible]
these points, I hope it will be correct, that upon
each subject which Constitutional authority has
been vested, — there are some Subjects, to which
it will be my Duty to call your Attention, — [illegible]
[illegible] Information [illegible]

— on a proper Arrangement of the One, materially depends the security of personal Rights; — upon a due Organization [redacted] is intimately connected our safety. —

As the Territory increases in population, the business in the Judicial Department will be proportionably enlarged, Such Provisions ought to be made from time to time, as will ensure a prompt redress of wrongs, and a speedy recovery of all just demands; the people are entitled to Justice "in the most cheap, easy and expeditious manner, promptly & without delay, conformably to the Laws?" You will consider therefore, whether the present Judiciary System admits of improvement; The Legislature is vested with Authority, to prescribe "the powers and duties of Magistrates and other Civic officers," and to make Laws in all cases for the good Government of the Citizens not repugnant to the principles & articles of the Ordinance." —

With respect to the Militia, it is confessedly an object of very great Concern; A free people ought to be well armed, well disciplined, ready at all times in a situation to defend their Country; A preparation of this kind, is the surest guaranty of peace and a certain degree of safety in time of War. — To form an energetic and efficient Militia, much attention and care are requisite on the part of the Government. — The operation of a Law upon the subject, ought to be general, and strictly enforced; To provide by Statute punishments with a few exceptions) all non-

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the different tenures and [illegible] which [illegible] are equal and [illegible] steps by to all [illegible] to convict a run [illegible]

But these facts are to be considered together and connected, and then supported by a certainty of

Further and certain safety should become familiar in this Society; the declaration of the many that the acknowledgements of the free inhabitants [illegible] cause: — If the citizens should attach their value to that first privilege of freemen, the right of suffrage, and elect to office men, in whose characters, Integrity, Love of country, and the Cool & Virtuous Principles of liberty, are most eminently conspicuous; then Legislation may become a source of protection and safety; then party spirit, that bane of happiness, gains an ascendency over laws and those civil dissensions are forbidden which enhance the expenses and endanger passion to threaten our Union; then there can exist no contempt, and the real Interests of Man will be kept in view.

But those misfortunes must be known before this Territory shall, that the great Governor of the Universe, has decreed for this people the [illegible] of Destruction. —

Let us then with great humility [illegible] the Mother of [illegible] Supplication

[illegible] extensive [illegible] Commerce, [illegible] the [illegible] can be [illegible] and life, [illegible] the Happiness [illegible] motion of Measures and to the Suppression of Vice, [illegible] and enrich [illegible] with the Charms of Harmony and Concord. — While we seek and mean [illegible] our attachment to the Union, with the Mother State, [illegible] of that Union, upon the Morals of our Citizens and by securing them in the Liberty of Virtue and Science, [illegible] to exhibit the excellencies of a free Government, and to become useful to Humanity. —

William C. C. Claiborne

Natchez December 2nd 1801

To the above Letter the Governor returned the following Answer —

To His Excellency William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory

Sir

Your Letter of this Day [illegible]

for the Governor [illegible]

The Sentiments you have expressed, in [illegible]
declaring the reliance Character [illegible]
Government [illegible] and [illegible]
Connected with [illegible] strengthen the
Source of your [illegible]

The [illegible] of the [illegible]
placed in your Fidelity & Greatness [illegible]
the united resources of your mind, and by [illegible]
Vigilent attention to Business we have every reason
to expect, to discharge with Credit to [illegible]
self and Satisfaction to the People, the [illegible]
duties of your high Station —

Your determination of strict adherence
to the Federal Constitution, Treaties, and Laws
of the United States, we highly approve, and
in which you may rely on our Co-operation
and support —

We reciprocate the Your
disposition to cultivate a good understanding
with the two Houses of Legislature; and shall
make it our care, that the Acts we recommend
by them to the Nation & passed shall
be, [illegible] & [illegible] to
the Sentiments they express in their Address,
their deliberations be impressed with that [illegible]
of Candour which characterized [illegible]
Assured that they [illegible] to [illegible]
Providence [illegible] to [illegible]
People the [illegible]

We [illegible] with you the [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the Legislative
[illegible]

Gentlemen of the Legislature. Duties of your
Office &c.

[redacted] your attention
this night will be engaged on
all the local concerns which require
Legislative interference — But there are
Occasions when all Ranks of Men
Citizens of Influence, and Property of them
selves, Offspring, and this Office can
only be known to you in theory have been
variously felt by the Citizens in experience —
One evidence of the Latent Energy of
Love of Liberty the political situation of the Coun
try in several Years is much more than of
their Publication —
The Legislature are very
sensible of the great importance of the Subject
to which you have dedicated their attention and
Forces the Consequence of delay —
We do most heartily congratulate
you & with you to gratitude to Almighty
God, the Author of all good, for the Success
you have encountered, so literally, & glorious
to the People of this Country —
We entreat, Gentlemen, you to
use Manner inspiring our Citizens Peace
and Tranquility, directing Parties Animosities
to cease, prefer under your Counsels the
Farmer Success and Prosperity to Flatter
your Endeavours to take good Policy which
Results from the Experience of
Should

&c.

[illegible] respects — [illegible] Permit me, Sir, to repeat
the assurances of [illegible] confidence & consideration
(not accep[illegible] [illegible] of Virginia
[illegible] Republicans. —

Henry Hunter
Speaker of the House of Reps.

John Eliot
President of the Senate

Natchez
December 17th 1801

A Letter from Sarah Adams Hunter to the
Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Sarah Adams 11th June 1801

Mr Dunbar received last evening a letter
delivered me your favor of the 17th instant. The Indians
have been a long while on the path & we have now work in
readiness the representation of the Chickasaws, and shall con-
fer our conference next week in 2 or 3 days.

Mr Ellicott to lay the enclosed before you, for
your information, that you may take such measures
as you may deem necessary relative thereto. Mr Ellicott
will be with the People of the Territory early in [illegible]
[illegible] from the department towards the Indians
[illegible] like the present, easily will convince
[illegible] [illegible] through the

Indians discovers a disposition on their part unfriendly. Circumstances however greatly accommode them: and we have a right to expect that their further conduct directed to you will be hostility, should circumstances lend to generate such a disposition. The case of the man supposed to be murdered should be examined into in mild form & a candid statement made of it. I pity the agent accompanied with general assurances of a disposition friendly Indians and a determination to exercise the full force of your authority to punish the offenders to justice. This will be highly satisfactory to the Chiefs.

I am not very well, have a cough & a cold. I shall write you again in any thing interesting occurs.

I have the honor to be with sincere regard your most obedient

Dear Sir

Your Mo. Obed

Benjamin Hawkins.

The bearer is the brother of the man supposed to be murdered. He speaks English.

Fort Hughes Dec. 9th 1801.

Sir

I have just a half breed Chactaw Trader by the name of Thomas Brashears given him by a Mr. Pitchlynn of Pitchlynn station on about the 26th day of last month his brother James Brashears in the town of Pitchlynn where he was seen in the evening in company of a Chactaw Indian whose name they say is Tanatee tashke Hutchee and when he left along with a Chactaw Indian whose name they say is Tanatee tashke Hutchee and when he left the Trader directed him to [illegible] he was accompanied from the Creek [illegible]

I then went alone to the Bluff where I arrived ten
days; in the Stage from Natchez where I had
that day purchased [redacted] and that he has not been
seen or heard of [redacted]

Lewis farther heard from a
Chactaw that he had been informed by a Negro belong-
ing to a bald-headed white-man living on Sock-
a-hoo-la (supposed to be St Catherine) that his bro-
ther Samuel was killed by a Negro. He had with
him two blankets, two hats, one piece of Linnen
and twenty Dollars.

I take this opportunity of
representing to you for the information of the
Commissioners that many of the Chactaws now
here have complained to me of ill treatment they
say they have received from the white people on
their way between Horse Chitto and Buffalo,
and to add my opinion that if such acts of violence
do not meet a speedy and decided check they will
inevitably lead to serious & deplorable Consequences.

With sincere respect & esteem
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant

John McKee

The Hon.ble
C.S. Hawkins

(His Excellency returned to Colo. Hardin's Letter the following Answer.)

Chillicothe December 14th 1807.

Dear Sir,

On the Evening of the 12th Instant I received by Lewis Baum, your Communication of the 10th together with the Statement made to you by Colo. McKee.—

I am sorry that the Conduct of a portion of the Citizens of this Territory, should have been such as to provoke the displeasure of the Indians and as an evidence of my great solicitude to check for the future, similar acts of Imprudence, and to preserve a friendly understanding with our Indian Brethren, I have this day issued a Proclamation, of which the enclosed is a Copy.— Perhaps my caution to the people is not sufficiently strong, but in the course of my little experience of the disposition of Frontier Citizens, in relation to Indians I have uniformly discovered, that the Language of persuasion, and friendly advice was more likely to produce a happy effect than any threat of prosecution & punishment, which cannot be inflicted but heretofore, and more Contrary to my Intention.— But the Indian Evidence is so uncertain and the proof of more Atrocious Offences has so frequently failed, that I am very hesitating, as yet to take any Steps in the premises.—

In reference to the Three Men [illegible]

great confidence given him the fullest assurance
that all proper exertions shall be made by me to
discover and punish the guilty person, if any such
can be actually found among us; and hereby hope
to restore Peace and Harmony to the whole frontier
of Tennessee and the Creek Nation, he has pledged
his word "that his heart shall be straight."

With best wishes for a speedy recovery
of your health, and the Completion of your
Mission I remain with great respect
Sincere Esteem

Your most obt. hble Servt

William C. C. Claiborne

Colo. Benjamin Hawkins.

By his Excellency William C. C. Claiborne
Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over
the Mississippi Territory.

A Proclamation.

Whereas I have received Official Information
that many of the Choctaw Indians, who are now under
the Treaty of Fort Adams, are much dissatisfied,
in consequence of certain Instruments, which they report
to have received (while on their Journey) from the white
People residing between Natchitoches and Nuffaloe;
And whereas a repetition of such treatment, might
produce the most unhappy consequences, and
may involve the United States, in difficulties

[illegible] hereby earnestly enjoining and requiring all and singular the Citizens of this Territory to desist from all manner of Hostility and Violence against all and singular the [redacted] who may be either going to, or returning from the Treaty aforesaid, or who at any time hereafter, may in a peaceable manner be passing through the Settlements of this Territory.—

I am well aware that the good people of this District are subjected to some inconvenience from Indian Visits and which of late, are so frequent, as to become burthensome;— But the Object for the attainment of which, the Choctaws have been invited from their own Country, being of great importance to the United States, I trust, that every good Citizen will Cheerfully submit to a temporary Inconvenience, and on all occasions carefully avoid every act which might prevent the Complete success of the Negociation, or disturb that Friendship with the Indian Brethren, which enables the Indian [illegible] to seek Security, and the Citizen on the Frontiers to cultivate his Field in Safety.

Given under my hand, & the Seal of the Territory near Natchez, on the fourteenth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and one, and in the twenty sixth year of American Independence.—

William C. C. Claiborne

By His Excellency's Command

John Steele, Secretary

On the 18th. of December, the Governor
issued the following Proclamation.—

By his Excellency [redacted] Governor
Governor and Commander in Chief, in & over the
Mississippi Territory.—

A Proclamation

Whereas the Legislative Council, & House of
Representatives of this Territory, were by adjourn
ment to have met in General Assembly, at the
Town of Natchez in the Government House, on
Monday the 11th day of the present month;
And whereas by an uncommon fall of Rain,
which had raised the water Courses, and prevent
ed all Communication between the members of the Council
and House of Representatives, from attending
at the place & on the day aforesaid,— And
whereas doubts have arisen, whether or not by this
prevention the Session of Assembly is not closed, and cannot
Constitutionally be resumed, without the express
Authority, and command of the Governor: Now
therefore to quiet all doubts upon this subject, &
to give no ground for any person, who may be
disposed, to question the validity of the Act
of the present Assembly: I have thought proper
to issue this my Proclamation, hereby requir-
ing and Commanding the Members of the
Legislative Council & those of the House of
Representatives respectively to meet in General
Assembly, at the Government House in the Town
of Natchez on Saturday the 16th day of the
present month, & then & there proceed to the
transaction of such business as may come before the Governor

23

Given under my hand, and the Seal of the Territory, near Natchez this 15th day of December Anno Domini 1801, and in the Tenth year of American Independence

Seal

William C. C. Claiborne

By his Excellency's Command

John Steele, Secretary

Natchez December 20th 1801

Dear Sir,

I have this moment, been informed, that the Commissioners of the United States, have concluded a Treaty (at Fort Adams) with the Choctaw Nation; The Chiefs have consented to the opening of a Road, through their Lands to Tennessee, but refuse permission to erect houses of accommodation: I presume therefore, that this work will be shortly be commenced, and when completed, will no doubt, prove a great public convenience.—

The Western Commerce, the present and ensuing Years, will be infinitely more valuable, than it heretofore has been— great quantities of Flour & other Articles of Export, have within these few days arrived at and passed by this Town, and the Mississippi presents daily a strong proof of the great increase of Industry, & Wealth among our Western Fellow Citizens.—

In this Territory the labour of the Farmer will be liberally rewarded, Our staple Commodity Cotton has been very productive, & meets with an immediate & lucrative Market— I have heard, & believed by men, whose Opinions are entitled to respect, that the aggregate Amount of the Sales of Cotton, during the present Year, in this District, will exceed 700000 Dollars, which among a people, whose numbers (of all denominations) do not exceed three thousand, is an immense Revenue,— The fact is, that Cotton is more valuable, than in any other part of the United States, and

[illegible]

[illegible] grand [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] that the [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Experience, [illegible] [illegible] of this [illegible] [illegible]
seems to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
be severed. —

The Virginia Legislature, (who are
Now in Session) are engaged in the formation
of a new Judiciary System. — The Manner in
which the Superior & Inferior Courts have been
before [illegible] arranged, meets with [illegible]
Disapprobation, and there is certainly great [illegible]
for Amendment; — But it would be [illegible]
such, were alternately to [illegible]; unfortunately
there is a great difference between the Judges
of the Supreme Court, & the People; one half
of the latter, & perhaps a greater Number, have
confidence in the Judiciary; the Members of
the two Houses of Assembly are amongst the
most prejudiced, and Men upon this Subject
that are to be inclined to Legislate hastily &
often, than upon principle, Reason & Experience
for Seasons of Times, and Circumstances
to be Aware of much trouble to arise —
[illegible] Election made by the Superior Courts
of Chancery (and which Practice would [illegible]
[illegible] Legislature) has given rise to much Com-
plaint, & Dissatisfaction, Perhaps not
the Impropriety of the Legislature — Subject
to the Resentment of the Party [illegible]
Power and Influence, and [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Sense of their Juriscdes, much Valuable Land
[illegible] is Certain that the [illegible] upon Inspection,
might appear legal [illegible] were [illegible] to Existing
Grievances: the Practice [illegible] has not Continued, is
known to have been practiced, and Grievances of
Nature have been Corrected by the Granting
Power to me, to have arisen ~~it~~ ——— In some Si-
milar Instances, Free Gratuitous Grants were made
for Lands, which had been previously Free
granted, and in a Case of this Kind, where fresh
Light had been brought, the Holder of the Fraudulent
Grant, (which was Eldest in date) obtained a
Recovery. ——— In the Inferior Court, whereto the
Case was ~~first~~ remanded into, Parole Testimony was
admitted to Validate the antidated Grant, &
the Defendant obtained a Verdict. But upon an
Appeal to the Superior Court, the Parole Testimony
was declared inadmissible, and of Course the
Plaintiff succeeded. ——— This Case is thought
a Hard one, and the Legislature to afford a Reme-
dy, have it in Contemplation to pass a Law
Changing the Admission of Parole Testimony, to
Invalidate certain Ancient Grants, but before
any Law is done to some of the Members, that Scru-
ples the present, appear to a measure of that
Kind, it has not been Urged. ——— Connecti-
cut, with the Spanish Dependencies are Quality of
the Contest with which they are Charged, that
on this Way, much Land, which according to
Ancient Rights, ought to be considered Vacant,
has been granted. ——— But to Solomon, Counsel
[illegible] Practice [illegible] to Practice for the
[illegible] to Suppress a
[illegible]

[illegible] ...ulation of the Negroes, already ...ed to the number
of [illegible] ... Their ... accounts for Texas ...
over last ... chance for ... must be had in the ...
will be annihilated ...

The Spanish Government at Vera
Cruz (from later information) have great
respect to the Commissioners of the United States
and continues very friendly towards Americans
who visit that Port.

It is stated reported that Louisiana & East
& West Florida, are ceded to France, & in fact
part of the truth of the Report, it is stated
that the fortifications at New Orleans, were
of late much neglected, and going fast to
decay.

With great respect & sincere Esteem
Dear Sir, Your most ob. Hble Servt

William C. C. Claiborne

The Hble James Madison
Secretary of State

Vol.

Natchez January 1st 1802.

Dear

Since my Letter of the 20th ultimo, I have nothing new of importance to communicate. —

The Territorial Legislature have not as yet progressed slowly in Business, but what they do transact, will I think be found to be well considered. —

Political disquietude is nearly appeased in this Territory; among the people, I can learn of no other discontent, but on the subject of the Judiciary system, I advised you, in my last Letter, on hand, my best endeavours to remove distrust, & Error. Enlightened Reflection have failed of success, — is to be lamented, that the Supreme Court of the Territory, should be so deficient in Law knowledge — The Chief Justice Mr Lewis is certainly a man of Talents, & very respectable as a Lawyer but his Colleagues Messrs Sitton & Green, (private life they may be in private life) the general suffrage, ought to be consulted for the offices they — Mr Brown was (I believe) transferred to Mississippi and Mr Sitton it is said, some years ago read Law 12 or 18 Months, & was never the practice, — It is with the Territorial Legislature, (both the Houses, for one two under or at all times) [illegible]

The Legislature have under consideration, a bill to vest in the Courts, in Equity Jurisdiction, the power of granting a Writ of Chancery, in cases of relief against [illegible] entitled Grants mentioned to you, in my Letter of the 2d Instant, - These frauds have certainly been numerous, & it is no way unlikely to discover & defeat them, must contribute, & wrong will (hopefully) arise in this Government. -

The News of Peace in Europe, reached this place on Yesterday, by the way of New Orleans, - I Congratulate you on this great Event, it is interesting to the cause of Humanity, & cannot fail to advance the happiness of Mankind. -

Col. Steele continues in bad health, and unable to attend to Business. -

Accept assurances of my great Respect & sincere Esteem. -

I am, Sir,

Your most Obt. Hble. Servt.

William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble James Madison

Secretary of State

[illegible] wrote the following letter to
Lewis [illegible] informing him [illegible]
from the Office of Sheriff of Adams County.

Feby 1st 1802.

Sir

Mr David Lee is appointed your deputy
as Sheriff for the County of Adams, and has this day
given into Office your Office will therefore be given over
to deliver to him, any papers or process that may
[illegible] to the duty of Sheriff for Adams County
Commr requested to [illegible] and [illegible] each [illegible]
Chancellor [illegible] Court [illegible] to swear
to the Return and process which you have [illegible]
Charge together with the Fees of Office [illegible]
Sheriff [illegible] which Fees [illegible]
Case [illegible]

With great respect
I am Sir
Your Most Obt Servt
Wm Eaton Grant

The Governor wrote the following Letter to Wm Wells
Receiver of Public Moneys at Steubenville

Washington City January 11th

Sir

in which you express an intention, not to accept the Commission of Treasurer [illegible] for this Territory. I was very much [illegible] have waited upon you personally, to [illegible] the reason you assign for declining, which, that I can not [illegible] your acceptance, but most pray you, to receive my best wishes, for a speedy restoration of your health.

With respect & Esteem!

I am Sir,

Your most ob[illegible] Hble Servt

William C. C. Claiborne

[illegible] Abner Green Esquire, was on the 12th January appointed by the Governor, Treasurer General.

Natchez January 20th 1802.

Sir,

I take the liberty to inclose for your perusal a Letter which I this day received from Mr Hardy, the Attorney General of this District containing interesting detail of the situation of some claims for Land in this Territory. ——

A Judicial decision, which was referred in my Letter of the 20th ultimo to by Mr Hy, & of the Statement made by this Gentleman be correct, and I have new reason to believe that it is Nicely so, it do deem to me that the Legislature & the opinion delivered by the Supreme Court may [illegible] be [illegible]

I wish with the [illegible] you to lay [illegible] Meetings [illegible] before the Attorney General of the United

Mr. Wells, was to request his secretary to write to Mr. Burnside for the Gentlemen to be sent on what measures to be pursued, to insure the evacuation of Citizens here, and great uproar subject, & the Mayor much excited, the Idea, that the parties concerned in such, should derive any benefit therefrom.—

The Peace in Europe, has greatly encreased the prices of the Exports (except Cotton which continues high in demand) at Orleans, & fear that many of the Western Men, who have lately adventured in the Mexican Commerce, will sustain great loss.

It was two days ago reported in town, that an Embargo was about to be laid on American Vessels at Orleans, and the Commerce for the future, limited to such that sort.— although I gave no credit to unfounded reports, & knew our duty to have the refusal to clearance, & was ready to surrender it entirely unfounded.— Spanish Government Officers at Orleans of late Manifested some disposition & encouragement to the causes of this country, but an American at Natchez corresponded from the Office of Louisiana Finance, and the approach of French Troops to the Seat of the District.— I have become convinced that I could be received in the

[illegible] honor
the [illegible] of a Communication from your Excellency
[illegible] Act
With the [illegible] Consideration.
I am Sir,
Your very Obt. Servant
William C. C. Claiborne

Hble.
James Madison
Secretary of State.

Copy of a Letter from the Governor, to the President of the United States.

Natchez, January 21st 1802.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you, an address from the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory, & have the pleasure to add, that the Sentiments it contains, are in unison with the feelings of a great Majority of the Citizens of this Territory.

I am persuaded an opinion generally prevails in this District, that the Treaty, lately, by our Commissioners, ceding to the [illegible] of France the Province of Louisiana, upon Conditions, which ought to give alarm to such important Interests, [illegible] the security of our public Lands.

[illegible] Since the [illegible] of this Treaty [illegible]

[illegible] William C. C. Claiborne

House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory. — January 20th A.D. 1802. —

Mr. West from the Committee appointed for that purpose, presented the Draft of an address to His Excellency the President of the United States which being twice read, was unanimously adopted as follows, — To Wit: —

An Address from the House of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory, to His Excellency Thomas Jefferson President of the United States. —

Sir,

In the course of a long, honorable, and useful Life, your Love for Mankind and their Rights, your Wisdom to discern, promptitude to pursue, and delicate to promote the true interests of Nations, have been eminently conspicuous, and while such virtues have attracted our admiration and Esteem, they could not fail to inspire a respect for, and confidence in your Administration. —

In superintending the affairs of Mississippi, and forwarding the welfare of your numerous Constituents, we feel ourselves obliged, that they should receive the information of their Laws, and the Regulations of their Government, with the earliest dispatch. The Journals of the Legislature —

a part of the United States, for [illegible] local advantages than [illegible] and their advancement up to [illegible] promises to be speedy & certain. — Knowing such gratitude, that under your paternal wishes our prospects for political happiness have recently brightened, and we anticipate with fondest expectation, the arrival of a period, when this Territory, mature in age, strong in population, and rich in resources, will add still greater security to the American Union, & we flatter ourselves, that her present & future Legislators, will remain no less zealous & firm in the support of civil & religious liberty, Fortune measures, than in a strict adherence to constitutional provisions, & those republican principles, which the Patriots of this Sex, had the goodness to conceive, the boldness to avow, and fortitude to maintain. —

We pray Almighty God, to bless your administration, & extend to a Life so valuable, the particular patronage of Heaven. —

Signed: Jo. Hunter, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Resolved that the above Address be transmitted by the Speaker to Governor Claiborne, who is hereby requested to forward the same to the President of the United States. —

Extract from the Journal

E. L. Hargis, C. H. R. —

12

Natchez 23rd January 1802

Sir,

I received last night the Message of the President to the two Houses of Congress, at the opening of the Session, & read this morning. The perusal of this interesting communication, afforded great pleasure, and I feel greatly solicitous for the adoption of the measures recommended.

The State of this Territory, by their unfortunate rush, nor is the prospect promising. Already unflattering, as I shall place contrasted with domestic factions, & private parties [illegible] to lay this Spirit, which [illegible] I can be required.— It is a pleasure however to know, that these powers were created, I came into the Government, & that I have [illegible] though, to act independant of any of them, & sufficient, to be just to all.—

The Legislature of the Territory continues in Session, but will probably adjourn a few days,— Much part of Monday & Tuesday in attention this Day is amply employed, but the Legislature of Territory in Legislative measures which occasions much [illegible] will I fear be attended with [illegible]

The Laws passed by the Governor & Judges under the first Grade of Government have [illegible] The Legislature have [illegible]

[redacted] found [redacted] set, but I felicitate myself with a hope, that when put in [redacted] they will conduce more to the convenience, [redacted] on of the people, than those, they have [redacted] been accustomed to.—

I saw to prohibit the importation into this Territory of Negro Slaves, above the age of fourteen, past the Hou. of Representatives, but was rejected in the Council;— this kind of population, is becoming alarming, and will in all probability, (sooner or later) prove a source of much distress.— The culture of cotton & tobacco and personal labor consequently so valuable, that Common Negro Fellows will generally Command [redacted] hundred dollars per head, and such encouragement should long be afforded to the Sellers of Negroes, this Territory must soon be overrun, by the most abandoned of the unfortunate race.—

I am making exertions to organize the Militia of this District;— but many obstacles present, the greatest of which are the want of arms and of the means of obtaining a supply.——

I am Sir,
Your most Obt. Servant

William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State.—

No 11

The Governor wrote the following
Letter to Mr. Linton, upon his resigning
the Office of Treasurer for the County
of Illinois.

Saltz 27th January 1802.

Sir

Your Resignation of the Office of
Treasurer for the County of Illinois is accepted
upon which Mr. Wm. Henderson is appointed your
Successor to whom you will be pleased to
deliver the Accounts, Vouchers and other
Papers relating to said Office.

Conscious of your Official Talents &
Integrity, I regret the loss of your Services, but
reason, you have assigned for retiring from
Employment, is such, that I can no longer
press your Continuance.

With a sincere wish for your
happiness in life

I am Sir,

With great respect

Your Mo. ob. Hble Servt

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Mr Edmund Hunter

[redacted] 1802.

Sir,

On the 29th [redacted] addressed to General Wilkinson, was then in this Neighbourhood, a Letter, a Copy of which together with his answer, are herewith inclosed for you.

I hope the request, I have made of the General, will not be deemed unreasonable. Peace with the Indians at present, prevails in this Territory, but surrounded as it is, by numerous Indian Tribes, and with a Population of seven thousand, nearly equal to the number of Whites, the Continuance of that Peace, is certainly precarious, and it seemed to me advisable, to have the Stand Arms at Fort Adams, placed in some situation, where in the hour of danger, the Militia could be furnished with the means of defence.

The erection of this Arsenal, will be attended with no unnecessary expence to the United States; — the Woods will be cleared by the Men, and the use of the land upon which the Arsenal is placed, and the necessary timber shall be procured gratis.

The Territorial Legislature closed their Session on the second Instant; their acts are [illegible] for the benefit of a good Principle of [illegible] the Territory [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] will [illegible] be attended with [illegible] great
[illegible] [illegible] and expence ... The People at
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], that they are not oppress
[illegible] Taxes — the first case, that it is
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] remedy the Misfortune
the only Remedy in this Country, by the
Labour & Industry in their Profession & employ
them more largely, to bear the Taxes ... the
Government, that from the encrease of Trade
great Profit & necessary assistance, it will
be completed for several Months —

I am surprised that Some of the
Town Dwellers, do not turn their attention
this Country — I know of no part of
America, where a Settlement connected,
so near Market, to the Enterprize
& advantage, to Society —

The Lawyer answer a few things in
two Letters received, by these Gentlemen
two days since written on this Subject, which
Governor — The Lawyer has retired
his Fortune, and I have with them Inform
of many Occasions on his hands to engage in
Business, in return —

A Patent desired has an
Letters the two Heirs of [illegible] on
Lands the Officers of the [illegible]

[redacted] to his [redacted] the Publication of
some Citizens the aff[redacted]ith exigencies the
taking of depositions [redacted] Civil Conduct
of the Judge and to [redacted] his impeachment
&c &c against Mr Page,

There has in circulation, interesting
intercourse still more, the flame of party, ren-
dered the restoration of entire harmony
to this Society, (for the present) without the
reach of human Power.

The Papers printed at Frankenstein,
for which I have subscribed, are frequently
lost or destroyed on their passage, by the mail
to this distant Settlement, that you will con-
fer on me a great favor, if you would
occasionally inclose me a paper which should
contain any interesting information.

With great respect
I am Sir
Your mo. ob.d Hble Servant

William C. C. Claiborne

Hble Wm
James Madison
Secretary of State.

Extract from the Governors
Instruction

Natchez 29th January 1802

Dear Sir,

The exposed situation of this
Territory, and the cruelty which exists to apprehend
danger from within & without, — the general
dread of a war among the Indian Nations, & the
States, which they would be enabled to make
on the event of Indian hostilities & Indian
hostility among the Negroes, are facts which can
not escape your observation. — A sincere wish to
avoid the detachment of Federal Troops or Militia
more in this Quarter, would after some
consideration, not much slaughter might be
made before this force could be brought to act
and it could not give certain security against
insurrection from the Militia. —

Finding the Necessity there is
I am induced to solicit your to erect a
Block House, central to the population of
Districts as a place of deposite, for such share
Arms as may not be judged at first advisable
subject to my order & to that of the Militia
Executive should demand. —

I do [illegible] that an attack
of this kind [illegible] of Indians

[redacted] to the Public Service [redacted] Small Guards
cannot only be necessary [redacted] Stores &c. &c.
Which would be [redacted] sufficient.

Gen. Lincoln Sir, must first release us
from our distress from the Iroquois Settlements
and the Shore Ways at that place, would
be of little service to the body of the Militia,
in the event of a Sudden attack.

With respect & Esteem
I am Sir
Your Obt. Hble Servant
William R. R. Blackford

Recd

James Wilkinson

A Letter from General Wilkinson
to the Governor.

Natchez January 29th 1802.

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 20th
believing that nothing can be more agreeable
to my Superiors, (in the disposal of the Militia
than the preservation of the safety, and tranquility of
our Fellow Citizens,) I shall with pleasure obey your
requisition, by the Establishment of a small body,
limited to the protection of the Territory, at such
point as may be, not [illegible] 300 Miles of

[redacted] subject [redacted] your Excellency [redacted] I have
the [redacted] honor, [redacted] that [redacted] Troops in
[redacted] the accommodations of the
Post [redacted] to be used or employed,
Circumstances should render necessary
therefore my Judgment & Discretion
Sincerity & expedience of the occasion [redacted]
I will however take leave to suggest
to the Public, that grounds & Timber may be
[redacted] for the necessary Cabins free
Cost

With sincere respect & Esteem
I am Dear Sir
Your Obt Servant
A. Hamilton
His Excellency
Governor Clinton

the Governor [redacted] action (of [illegible]
ark) of a [redacted] committed on
the Mississippi, [redacted] ing Letter to
Governor General [redacted]

Natchez February 10th 1802.

Sir,

From the friendly understanding, which happily exists between the United States, and his Catholic Majesty, I take the liberty to acquaint your Excellency, with a daring Robbery, which has lately been committed upon some Citizens of the United States, who were descending the River Mississippi on their Passage to this Town.—

The particulars of this transaction, are detailed in the papers enclosed, and to which, I beg leave to refer your Excellency;— It is indeed uncertain, whether the persons who were concerned in this act of Piracy, were Spanish subjects, but it seems, from the Statement made, that the Offence was Committed more immediately, within the Jurisdiction of Spain.—

I have (by Letter) requested the Officer Commandeering the United States Troops, at the lower Chickasaw Bluffs, to make proper exertions to arrest the Persons and Felons, who [illegible]

[redacted] Excellency on this occasion of [redacted]
necessary to your Office to make [redacted]
-fair & [redacted] Views. —

The safety of the Western Commerce
greatly interests to both the United S
ates Govt, and of prompt measures by
Govts must be made to detect & punish the
recent Offenders, similar outrages upon
Mississippi, will probably ensue, and much
injury may be done to the Citizens of the
and the Subjects of the other Nations —

I pray your Excellency to be
assured of my perfect respect
consideration —

William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Governor General of Louis
& New Orleans. —

Capt. [redacted] 10th 1812.

Dear Sir.

The enclosed extract from a paper, published on this Town, will inform you of a daring act of Piracy and Robbery which has lately been committed on the Mississippi, a little below the mouth of the Arkansaw River. ——

I doubt not, but that you will exercise the necessary vigilance, and use all the exertions in your power to detect the offenders. — It is possible they are lurking in the Mississippi, and may take advantage of your absence, and with a view to a discovery, I enclose you a list of the Articles stolen.

The Citizens who navigate the Mississippi, are frequently exposed to insult and imposition, and I pray you to admonish all who may stop at the Garrison, to observe caution in their journey to be prepared at all times to repel by force any attack which may be made upon their persons or Property. ——

With great esteem
I am Sir,

[redacted]

Sir,

I am duly arrived at this Territory, [illegible] letters to you [illegible] frequently, and I [illegible] they have been regularly received, but [illegible] I have not a Answer as yet. No communications [illegible] the Department of State have yet reached [illegible] An election for Members to the [illegible] Territorial Legislature, will take place, on [illegible] next, and the Returns already received [illegible] indicate a decided majority [illegible] elected, — The Opposition to the present Ad[illegible] is certain, I will probably be successful; — [illegible] greater, & often favor is unaccountable [illegible] tangle the population of this District is com[illegible] of very heterogenious mass, and their [illegible] principles & opinions are as different as the [illegible] habits & prejudices which prevail in the diff[illegible] States or Nations from whence they emigrate[illegible] and from this cause, (if no other existed) the ad[illegible] of peace succeeding Legislatures, will be dif[illegible] to ascertain. —

That a decided majority of [illegible] people of this Territory, are Democrats in [illegible] principles and attachments, I do verily bel[illegible] But (to any great Monetary extent) [illegible] are slaves here, as in the States, [illegible]

[redacted] of
[redacted] that [redacted] of
Inhabitants [redacted] many, [redacted]
emmigrate to [redacted] for [redacted] per year
[redacted] the Rights of [redacted]
Several families from Kentucky, Tennessee and this Country, have lately emigrated to the Province of Louisiana, and it is feared that their example may be followed by others. The facility with which Lands may be acquired under the Spanish authority, and the prevalence of an opinion, that the Subjects of Spain are exempt from taxation, are probably the principal Inducements to this abandonment of their Country.

With respect

I am Sir
Your Obt Servt

William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
James Madison
Secretary of State

[illegible]

[illegible] day, a petition signed by
[illegible] the citizens of the Territory
was presented to the Governor praying that
pardon might be granted to Jorge Rafalgo
heretofore convicted of Manslaughter, in
Jefferson County, & thereafter convicted, was
bound in recognizance to appear on the fourth
Tuesday in May, until the sentence of the
Law against him was announced, but
he has failed to do.—

The Governor observed
the prayer of the petition, that Rafalgo, as a
fine fear Justice, had fled defiance to the
& was consequently an unfit object of mercy;
no applications in his favor could be consid-
until he had surrendered himself into Cus-

The Governor wrote the following Letter
to the Public Printer.—

State Sitting February 23rd 18[illegible]

Sir

I am not in your power to render me
greater favor than by publishing with all
the dispatch the Laws passed at the late
Session of the Legislature.—

[illegible]

Yours &c

[illegible]

[redacted] to examine [redacted] which duty, [redacted] will be faithfully discharged.

There is one thing in my power to do, which will assist you in the prosecution of the work, & you will be pleased to mention it. — The People ought certainly, at an early period, to be made acquainted with the Laws, by which they are bound, and no one can regret more sincerely than myself, the delay which necessarily attends their Publication. —

I am Sir with respect,
Your Most Ob't Serv't
William C. C. Claiborne

James Ferrall Esq.
Printer for the Territorial Legislature.

5 D

[redacted]

Letter from Lincoln to [illegible]
Inter States
January 21st 1832

39

I have received a letter, signed by a number of the Citizens of Pinckneyville, and Vicinity, in which they have tendered their services as a Volunteer Company of Infantry, accompanied with a wish, that certain Gentlemen (named) may be appointed to Command them.

The Militia Law of the Territory, does not admit of any Volunteer Corps, except Companys of Artillery, in the Town of Kaskaskia and a Troop of Horse, in each County.— Meeting therefore of my fellow Citizens at Pinckneyville has been premature, and out of my power at this time, to forward their wishes.—

I greatly admire the Martial spirit, which gave rise to the Pinckneyville Association, it is an honorable and laudable Pride, when there exists with the most unanimous Call, a well regulated Militia, a certain Protection to the Safety of the Territory.— It is desirable on this Account to encourage and support a Infantry and Cavalry Company in [illegible]

[redacted] to [redacted] attention to [redacted] to request the [redacted] to Convene to nominate & Elect such Officers as they would wish. in Consideration of the Rank of Lieutenants, and Ensigns, and the probability, is, that on these occasions, I shall uniformly (unless some very cogent Reasons forbid) comply with the wishes of the Parties.

The Law makes it the duty of the Justices, in the different Counties, to lay out the bounds of Company Districts, & until this duty is performed, no Election for the nomination of Officers in the Infantry, will be regular.—

I did on yesterday, appoint & Commission John Otey, Colonel & Richard Butler, Major of the Wilkinson Militia, & they shall receive orders to proceed (without delay) to prescribe the bounds of Company Districts in Wilkinson County, and to fix a time & place for the Citizens with the limits of each Company, to meet & nominate their Officers.—

We have informe the Citizens of Natchez & its vicinity, that I had them in high estimation, & shall take much pleasure in [illegible] & Confirm.—

[illegible]

[redacted]

Fellow Citizens,

I solicit your attention to a subject, inseparably connected with your most precious Interest. — In your patriotic candour, I fully confide, and I expect from your, a cheerful, firm, and zealous co-operation in the execution of a measure which is essential to the welfare of the Country, to the protection of the dearest rights of Man.

The experience of ages, and almost every page of history, confirms the important truth, that the Militia of a Country, should constitute the chief defence, against external Enemies, external violence, and that unless this defence be protected, wisely, & timely, nurtured from Cradle to Manhood, the liberty of America, [redacted] has ever been averse to standing Armies, the Wisdom of her Government, and most of the States, have greatly regulated free Men to bear arms. [redacted] to garrison a few frontier Posts, and the defence of our Sea-port Towns; — the Militia, secondly, the great Body of the able bodied Freemen, to meet [redacted] (when [redacted] to this [redacted]

[redacted] plaine these, [redacted] for this purpose [redacted] honest efforts, to carry [redacted] Such execution, a Law necessity [redacted] the Servitude [redacted] for the exception.—

Why should Freemen engage to others, the protection of their Wives, their Children and their Country? With whom could Trusts so sacred, be as safely deposited?—

A Band of Citizen-Soldiers accustomed to the use of Arms, and trained in the practice of discipline, may combat with success, the Man Army, long dedicated to war,— the old Corps indeed, might excel in Military and Mechanical Concert, but the Citizen-Soldier animated by a love of their Country, and the recollection of their Families, would be constrained, with an enthusiastic ardour to face no danger can appal, no barrier resist,— Trenches, Walls & Ramparts afford ample testimony of the fact.—

Although the great blessing of Peace at present pervades our Land, yet in the progress of Events, we know not how soon this tranquility may be [illegible] and while Circumstances require at all times [illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible] was worthy [illegible]
[illegible] reputation" ——
[illegible] an attentive [illegible]
[illegible] local situation we shall find
infant society, [illegible] from the limi
[illegible] from our Mother Ca
[illegible] we all [illegible] Contribu
thus circumstanced every Eye must so
every Breast must feel, the propriety, of
[illegible] and acquiring the means of Secur
defence. —— The Subject embraced every
Interest, and should unite every Heart
Heart. —

For myself fellow Citizens I [illegible]
upon this occasion I should be wanting [illegible]
[illegible] conducted my Conduct, and [illegible]
[illegible] good should require our Services, [illegible]
be employed and my glory to sacrifice [illegible]
all upon this, and all upon yours. —

Yours &c.

Fear Natchez March 1st 1802.

On this day the [illegible] read by the Treasurer generally the accounts of Bernard Lintot Esquire late Treasurer for the County of Adams & and the several sums have been received by & the monies received justly accounted for. —

The Governor wrote the following Letter to Mr. Harding late Attorney General for the Territory. —

Natchez March 3d 1802

Sir

If Mr. Farrar, Mr. Brunes or any other persons have paid to you money on account of fines or forfeitures, you will be pleased to pay the amount to the Clerk of the Court in the forfeiture was incurred or the fine imposed by the Clerk, the money will be paid over to the Treasurer General. — This is the only course of proceeding & I am persuaded you will concur therein. — Your claims against the Territory shall be duly examined, & if allowed upon the agency, shall receive the attention to which Treasurer in the ensuing [illegible] accounts on January next [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 1802

[illegible] new Letter [illegible] letting Sen[illegible]
[illegible] regular [illegible] plan made [illegible] Gen[illegible]
Hutchinson to erect [illegible] Light-House, at [illegible]
Islands, central to the Navigation [illegible] the
Coast, and favor of Depot for the Seamen
at Fox Islands.—

I state that, that an Establishm[illegible]
of this kind, will add greatly to the Security
the District & Shall myself, divide meas[illegible]
approbation of the President.—

The organization of the Militia
Department occupies much of my attention,—
finds it an unpleasant & difficult business
— But Hope, I shall at least be Gradual
successful.—

The approach of the Election of
bers to the General Legislature, has great
increased the flame of Party, and the spirit
of this Society, is dismal by party dissen
Never more vehement than any I have
in effect under United States,— The Jac
of twelve years will probably urge them
into Party. until the Elections are over, h
will take place, or the
Jacobins & Tom [illegible] the Zeitun
[illegible] of the U.

[illegible] Laws [illegible] at [illegible] of the [illegible]
gestion, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
and seated, a Copy [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
you. —

Sec'y. Seals the Secretary [illegible] this
Secretary [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] his seal

With the greatest respect
& Esteem
I am Sir,
your mo: ob.t Hum.e Serv.t

William L. L. Claiborne

The Secretary of State
for the United States

[illegible] the [illegible] by the [illegible] John Dunamel [illegible]
[illegible] the Territory [illegible] the words following.—

By William C. C. Claiborne, Gover
and Commander in Chief of the Mississip
Territory of the United States.—

These are to request all States
Potentates & others, whom it may concern
Let Mr John Dunamel a citizen of the Ter
ry aforesaid, going by Sea to Philadelphia
safely & freely, without giving any hindrance
be given to him, any hindrance, but on the co
ry affording to him, all aid & protection, suc
ought to do in like case for those, who ought
recommended to us.—

In testimony whereof, I have
ed to him, this Passport, Signed by my
land, with the Seal of the Territory annexe
Dated near Natchez, on the 9th of Janu
the 1802, & in the 26th year of the Ameri
Independance.—

William C. C. Clai

By the Governor

Signed [illegible]

[redacted] received the Resolution
relating to [redacted] on his Ex-
cellency [redacted] Governor
State of North

State of North Carolina
Raleigh January 14th 1802

Sir,

In compliance with a Resolution of the
General Assembly passed at its late Session, a
authenticated Copy of which, I do myself the hon
to enclose you, as well as the Copy of a Bill
of Indictments found by the Grand Jury for the
District of Hillsborough at their June Term 1799
against a certain Hockley Donelson & William
Tyree charged with Conspiracy, combination and
confederacy against this State. — This part of
Indictments has been presented by their Clerk
of the Superior Court for the District of Hills
borough & signed by him accompanied by their
Warrant & usual Forms as shews its authenticity
the said Hockley Donelson & William Tyree
having fled from this State & refused to submit
to their Sentence & abide the Issue thereof and
as I am informed are now or late residing
within the Limits of the Territory of which you
preside: — It is therefore [redacted] that
[redacted] & [redacted] meeting
[redacted]

To the Governor and the following Letter to
John Henderson late Recorder of Attorneys for
Illinois, dated 15th 1809.

[illegible] Henderson late Recorder Illinois State
that on his arrival in Illinois Country he had
Certificate of Evidences of his freedom recorded,
the Records Office, and that having put the
able & being about to depart from the Territory,
wishes an attested Copy from the Record.

The Governor assigned the Duty
Recorder to the Clerk of the County Courts,
Walker, directed the proper Seal, to give
Notary, the Instrument of writing which he
and for that purpose, I wish you to furnish
Walker with the Books, on which the evidence
may [illegible] recorded.

Perhaps it will be inappropriate
to surrender to the County Courts, at this
all the Books & Papers of the Recorders Office
there can be no impropriety, on Vacancy happening
by the Death Resignation or Removal of
another Officer may be desired.

With respect &c
Your Obt
William C. C. Claiborne

To John Henderson
late Recorder for the
County of Illinois

[redacted] Court
[redacted] Court
for the County of [redacted]
[redacted] March 18th 1802.

Sir, James Miles a black man, informs an attested Copy, of a Certificate or Evidence of his freedom" which he says was recorded in the late Recorder's Office for Adams County.—

The Duty of Recorder for Adams County is now assigned to you, by Law, and of Course, you alone, can give Waters the Instrument of Writing, which he solicits.—

I have requested Mr. Henderson, to furnish you, with the necessary Records, & I presume he will do so upon application.—

With respect &c

Wm. B. B. Claiborne

D. G. Signed

I suppose, it would be most proper, for Mr. Henderson, to make a general surrender of the Books and Papers of his late Office, to Adams County Court, at its first meeting, but in the meantime Mr. Henderson will no doubt place before you for your perusal any Papers, of which Copies may be required.—

W. B. C.

To [illegible]
Clerk of the County Court
Adams County

12

The Governor urges the following Letter to the Hon. John
Mc Kee Agent for the United States in the Choctaw
Nation —

Geo. [illegible] March 29th 1812

Sir,

On the night of the 11th Instant a negro slave the p
of Mr George Fitzgerald of this Territory, was murdered by
unknown Person —

All the Circumstances attending this Transaction
have been brought to light, you will find detailed in the enclo
letter from Mr Fitzgerald, to the Attorney General —

It seems that suspicion attaches [redacted] to some
of the Chactaw Tribe, and with a view to a discovery, the c
of the deceased Negro, which was supposed to have been take
by the assassin, is particularly described — I invite Subject
to make some enquiries in the Nation, relative to this affair,
& acquaint me with the result — The Indian visits to this
place are frequent and oppressive; — they are encouraged by
our Citizens, Neighbourhood & support themselves principally by
stores from the Cattle Hogs &c &c of the Citizens; — I am confi
that the Choctaw Nation, must disapprove of such conduct on the pa
rt of their People, & it is my intention by the next Mail to forw
you an Address to the Chiefs upon this Subject —

With respect & Esteem —
I am Sir
Your Most Obt Servt

[redacted]

Secretary

William C. C. Claiborne

Hon. John Mc Kee, &c.

Copy of a [redacted] from [redacted] Governor General
of the Provinces of Louisiana to the
Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

Nw Orleans, February 28th 1802.

Sir,

I have perused with the most lively sentiments your letter of the 11th ultimo which I immediately caused to be translated, as also the Documents contained therein, in order to take the most efficacious means of ascertaining the enormity complained of, and for the discovery of the Criminals.—

It is truly impossible to determine, whether the delinquents are Spaniards or Americans;— I see no reason why it ought to be more particularly charged to my Nation, because the Crime appears to have been Committed near to a Spanish River,— those places are uninhabited, and for Six or Seven Spanish boats which go up to the Settlements of the Illinois, there passes two hundred American Flats & Barges which come from the States & western Settlements as they have the freedom and use the Navigation of the Mississippi, Vagabonds without number introduce themselves by that means, who have fled from or who do not or cannot retire to the United States.—

It is impossible for me to do any thing with this class of People without giving room for Conjectures, or my motives be wrongly understood, because it is not the Custom of the American Governments to give Passports as in Spain, when People travel from one place to another — only, when the Embarcations have Patrons, Guides and Passengers passports themselves, & even in that case, not without difficulty, and as it were by force.—

Contrary to the strictest orders given throughout this province, many introduce themselves, to whom an asylum is given, either through humanity or interest, & many go wandering through the woods until they [illegible] Nations, where they remain

to the great prejudice [illegible] Governments.——

[illegible] entered into this detail because I have
by several Dispatches from the Havannah, on which an in
is made of this affair, and I am certain that if every one
Districts had been concerned in this piracy they would have
discovered.—— I am of being of the General Interest that
Manufactors be discovered and punished, from which will re
the greatest benefit as well to Vessels of His Majesty, as to th
Subjects of the United States.— I have given the most positive o
the Commanding Officer who is going upon that Coast, to take
efficacious means of discovering and apprehending the Crimi
Criminals, that can be adopted; & further to give a Squadl
at the entry of the River St Francis, for the Security & protec
of such as Navigate in those parts, & to assure your Excel
that if they are taken, they will be punished in such a man
to serve as an example to others.— I desire that your
Excellency will furnish me with the means of manifesting to
may require, to on whatever may be your satisfaction, a
ready to [illegible] to [illegible] your Excellency many years.——

Your Excellency's &c

Manuel de Salcedo

Signed

The Answer

Mississippi Territory, Secretary's Office

March 29th 1802.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 28th Ultimo, in answer to my [illegible]
[illegible] of the 10th of February last, was received a few days ago
[illegible] met with the most agreeable attention.

I receive with you in Opinion, that it is impossible to
[illegible] by what Port, the Land Pirates from the Mississippi

[illegible] Letter of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

April 1st 1802

During the last three months, the governor made the following appointments. Viz.

Abner Green, Treasurer General for the Territory

For Adams County

William Dunbar, ---- declined
William Vousdan,
Samuel Brooks,
Bernard Sinnot, ---- declined
Jorgan Ellis,
James Farrell,
Adam Foltz,
Isabel Kirby and
George Fitzgerald,

Justices of the ~~County~~ Court

David Kerr, Sheriff for the County
Peter Walker, Clerk of the County Court
John Henderson, Treasurer of the County
Robert Clark, Clerk of Adams District
Isaac Dunham, Attorney General for Adams
Archibald Lewis, Clerk & Master in Equity for Adams

For Jefferson County

Isaac Hite,
Thomas Calvert,
Isaac Shepherd,
Henry Grant

Justices of the Peace for Jefferson

[redacted] Clerk of the County Court

John Girault, Clerk of the County Court.
Daniel Burns, Clerk of Jefferson District Court.
Felix Hughes, Clerk & Master in Equity, for Jefferson District.

For Washington County

John Callier,
John Johnson,
James Fair,
Joseph Thompson,
John McGuire,
Thomas Bassett,
John Brewer,
John Henson,

Justices of the Peace and Justices of County Court.

Richard Lee, Clerk of the County Court.

For Claiborne County

William Downs,
C. W. Humphreys,
James Stansfield,
Ebenezer Smith,
Daniel Burnett,
James Harrison,

Justices of the Peace and Justices of the County Court.

Samuel Cotten, Sheriff.
Matthew Feerney, Clerk of the County Court.
Samuel Gilbert, Coroner.

[redacted] Jefferson County

John [redacted], Justices of the
Joseph Davis, and Justices
John Gillis, of the County Court
Richard Smith,
William Ogden,
Thomas Dickson,

Henry Hunter, Sheriff —
Samuel Leftwich, Clerk of the County Court.

For Adams County

Militia Officers, 1st Regiment

Benajah Osmun, Lieutenant Col. Commandt
Abram Ellis, Major — Infantry
Richard King

For Jefferson County

Militia officers, 2nd Regiment

Zechariah Kirkland, Major —
William Thomas

For Washington County

Militia Officers, 3rd Regiment

John Collier, Major —
Nathaniel Christmas,

For Claiborne County
Militia Officers 5th Regiment
Daniel Durnet, Lieutenant Colo. Commandant
William Vicky, Major.

For Wilkinson County
Militia Officers 5th Regiment
John Ellis, Lieutenant Colonel. Commandant
Richard Butler, Major.

Artillery in Natchez
Samuel Postlethwait, Captain
Joseph A. Parrott, 1st Lieutenant
Joseph Freeman, 2 Lieutenant.

J. F. Hack, Brigade Major and Inspector.

April 2d 1802

The Governor having received Information of Offences, which had lately been committed, by some Straggling Indians who were at large in this delivered to several of them, who had collected at Government House in Natchez, the following Talk

Brothers,

The American Nation and Choctaw Tribe of Indians have long lived in Peace, I hope that our friendship will continue, as long as the Mountains Stand, or the Waters Run.—

I consider you as my Children, and must treat you with the freedom of a Father.— I wish it were in my power to say that your conduct was pleasing to me, but truth is, that unless you act better for the future, you will lose my good Esteem.—

If your Nation has sent you to this Territory it was your duty to call before me, and be known to me. But instead of coming to me, you returned Home; but I well know, neither your Chiefs nor People, sent you to me. Instead of coming to me, you have come of your own free will, & for nothing else, but to drink Whiskey & to spend your time in Idleness.—

It is my way to speak Straight;— listen to what I say, & bear in mind my Talk.— The white People are all in peace & love, and are employed in; several of the Boatmen have lost their Canoes & Cargoes, & in one Town, two of your Parties of Men, taken from me in the night, and another last part of this Month, and to tell you the truth, all these Outrages were done by your Nation.—

Brothers,

I have now

acts, if you or [illegible] I know you would not
[illegible] that was not [illegible], but I must tell
you, that if any thing should [illegible] in this Country hereafter
I will have your Camps [illegible] and if I should discover
that any of you have acted improperly, you shall be pun-
ished according to the White People's Laws. —

Brothers,

I am going now to give you some good
advice; Quit drinking Whiskey, for it will make you fools
& Mad Women; — Return to your own Land & make Corn
for your Families; — The time of year is come when Corn
ought to be planted, & every good Man should be at his
own Home; — If you will take this advice, I will give
you some provision to eat on the Path, but while you
remain in our Settlements, you shall not have one ounce
of Flour from me. —

N. O. & Near Natchez, April 3d 1802

Sir, It is confidently reported at New Orleans
that East & West Florida are ceded to France; — I have
understood, that no official information of the Cession, had
reached the Governor General of Louisiana, nor that he deni-
ed the truth of the report; — it is nevertheless generally believed
and has occasioned much anxiety & uneasiness among the
Inhabitants of Orleans. —

The Militia of this District continue to
manifest their zeal for the general cause of this Government in
a suitable manner to their organization. — I discover daily, the
general Government would make a loan upon it's credit
stock of Orleans to the Militia of this District; — they are
the strongest supporters & warmest friends to the Security of
the United States. —

The [illegible] of the Acts of the Le-
gislature [illegible] under [illegible] great [illegible]
[illegible] —

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Laws [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
I continue to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Place [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
at this moment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
(consisting of Men, Women & Children) encamped with
Hides around Watches, & for a support they almost
depend upon begging & stealing; — the Indians who
were employed to fight in behalf of Spain, are returning
dissatisfied, as I fear it difficult to settle the Western
Frontier matters. —

I am often at a loss for the Intrigues
which are informed, between Spain & France, & the
Court — under the Spanish Government, the Indians
accustomed to receive Presents & flattering attentions
when Visits were occasionally frequent; — I have
sent [illegible] to make them, and very seldom [illegible]
them with Provisions, but they notwithstanding, will
& cannot be persuaded to remain in their own
The hasty Spirit in this Country seems again
subsiding, & if my information be authentic, & Peaceable
= frame of the Citizens are pleased with the General Gov.
Government & the manner in which it has been ad
ministered. —

With Respect & Esteem
I am Sir,
Your Most Obt. Hble Servt.
William C. Claiborne

(J. Sargent)

The Governor
[illegible]
The Secretary of [illegible]
for the United [illegible]
[illegible]

In the 5th of April in the year of the
Proclamation.

By his Excellency William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Territory of Orleans and over the District
of Louisiana.

A Proclamation.

Whereas the interest of the Territory would, in many
instances, be promoted, by an early Session of the Legislature there-
of, I have thought proper to issue this my Proclamation, hereby
requiring & Commanding the Members of the Legislative
Council, & those of the House of Representatives respec-
tively to meet in General Assembly, at the Town of Washing-
ton, on Monday, the third day of July next.

Given at Natchez, this fifth day of April,
one thousand, eight hundred & two, & of the Independence
of the United States of America, the twenty sixth.

In testimony of which I have hereto
signed my name, & caused the Seal
of the Territory to be affixed.

(Seal)

William C. C. Claiborne.

By the Governor

(Engraved)

John Steele, Secretary

A Letter from the Governor to the Secretary

Fort Jefferson, Dec 8th 1802

Sir,

I have received a Letter from Mr Evan
of New Orleans, formerly a Merchant of that Pla
stating that he had lately received three Hogsh
three Boxes, containing Teas & Dyes & Muslins &
Chocolate Indians & which it appears were shipped in
Belgica, last in February or March in the year eight
Greenbow, Master of the Brig Thomas, bo
Cadiz bound for New Orleans & consigned to him, Mr Jones
that the Brig Thomas, had been taken into Providence
condemned as prize, with all her Cargo, except the
Hides & three Boxes above mentioned, which were
to his Consignee only these, & they alone, they had been
sent to him at Orleans.

I have no knowledge of these Goods, had
no Communication by Mr Jones; — I am however
certain, that they were Seized by the U. States as
for the Chocolate Indians, & the Muslins, if any
should be found to be of British manufacture to be Forfeited
with the Cargo which had occasioned them, —
they remained at Orleans, the Port for Foreign Goods
entering the Mississippi, & they ought not to be subject to
the Inquiries contemplated: — I take therefore my
Authority, & the Oath which I enclose be
taken before the Secretary of War for the amount
Cash & Effects, will be duly secured. —

The Secretary of War
Washington

[illegible] to [illegible] James [illegible] of Valentine, letters of which are enclosed numbered 2 & 3. —

On the arrival of [illegible] Gun at Valentine, he shall be cautioned & required to take the Oath of fidelity in the manner that you may direct; — & keeping a strict watch over probable disaffection. — You will perceive with the Letters, many have received from Citizens relative to these Tribes, I have addressed to them a Letter, a Copy of which is also inclosed, N.o 4. —

While I am upon the Subject of Indian affairs, I will take the liberty to state that the Chactaws are becoming very troublesome to the Citizens of this District; — they are Encamped in every Neighborhood and are in the habit of committing frequent depredations upon the Cattle, Hogs, & the property of the Inhabitants: Complaints of this excess, are daily made to me by the People, & it is not in my power to give redress. —

The Law establishing the Mississippi Territory attaches to the Governor, the powers & duties of a Superintendant of Indian affairs; — & those duties were positively prescribed, it would relieve me from much embarrassment. —

The management of Indians, is at all times unpleasant & frequently attended with difficulty — & therefore I consulted my inclination & convenience, & should wish to take no part in this business but from the contiguity of the Territory to several Indian Tribes, & their constant intercourse with the Citizens, it is necessary to the interest of both parties, that the Governor should have some agency in the Indian Department. —

The Solicitations which are at present making [illegible] (from [illegible]) very urgent, [illegible] — the Post [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] they are [illegible] assured by [illegible] Chiefs
[illegible] Desired by [illegible] to be ready at three [illegible]
[illegible] then [illegible]

[illegible] Senators [illegible]
[illegible] or [illegible] of Stars [illegible] Indians, but
it is presumed [illegible] Regiment Dress
Nitches, to the great Astonishment of the Indians.

I shall be sorry to make any request, which
ought be thought unjust, and shall endeavour to avoid
[illegible] in any Degree, the expences of the Gov
ernment, but I am constrained to ask permission, to employ
an Indian Interpreter, & to Select that [illegible] Indian
Officer, with about twenty or thirty Men except he
Stationed in the vicinity of Natchez, & whose
Orders — I must then have the Power, on all
proper occasions, to hold friendly Talks with the Indians
who might visit the District, & to procure by [illegible]
[illegible] Corn, Meal, Poultry, or other Provisions
[illegible] necessary for the Subsistence of the Troops
[illegible] —

Some time ago, General Wilkinson, on
application, did permit to erect on the Corner of the Main
or Block House in the Neighbourhood of Natchez, a
Place of Deposit for some of the Spare Cannon from
Fort Adams (in order that the Boys of the Militia
Corps might occasionally exercise) which Cannon he
[illegible] Removed with the Consent of Colonel
Stationed there, a few Months: — If this Arrangement
meets with your approbation, it would add to the Security
Security & Comfort [illegible] any other Precaution in the
Service: — The Cannon & Pieces of Ordnance
[illegible] this Establishment, but [illegible]
[illegible] by Order of the Government [illegible]
[illegible] Service [illegible] — [illegible] Indian Stores
[illegible] [illegible] the Secretary of War

[illegible] Your most obt. Hble Servt

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

For Dearborn
Secretary of War.

A Copy of a Letter from Mr. Wm. Jno. to the Governor.

No. 1.

New Orleans March 17th 1802

Sir,

Being informed, that your Excellency has the Direction of Indian affairs, in the Mississippi Territory, I take the liberty to address you on the subject of some Goods, I have just received from Providence, & which by the marks &c. on them, appear to have been destined for the Choctaw Indians.—

It appears, that some time in February or March, of the year 1801, some person in Philadelphia, Shipped on board the Brig Thomas, Captain Earle, bound for this place, three Hogsheads & three Boxes, containing, as it is said, Dress Goods, for the U. S. Choctaw Indians, & addressed to me.—

The Vessel was taken into Providence, and there condemned as prize, together with all her cargo, except the three Hhds. & three Boxes above mentioned, which were delivered to my Correspondents there, and by them kept, for [illegible]

Sir, Till the [illegible] Friday past when the Ship
[illegible] to me the Schooner Liverpore, & I have re-
ceived, as I have already said, after Days ago, and h
Before it that
I cannot write [illegible] to them on Pu
Delphia, nor [illegible] circumstance respecting the
Sales which I have [illegible]ated, as no Invoice, Bi
of Lading, or Letter about them came to my ha
The Charges I shall have to pay on these goods will be
between Eighty & ninety Dollars in Cash, in which sum
is also my Commission on receiving & delivering them
Now Sir, if after reading this Letter you
think proper to order any person to receive them from
me & pay me my Charges on them, I shall be ready
Deliver them.

I have also a small Demand of twenty pou-
-lars, on the Government of the United States, which Sir
you would think reasonable should be paid me out of their
effects now in your hands.

I am with great respect Sir
Your most humble Servt
Evan Jones

His Excellency
Thomas Mifflin Esqr
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania

[illegible] Jones

New Orleans April 7th 1802.

Sir;

Your Letter of the 9th Ultimo, has been Delivered, & I pray you to receive my thanks, for this mark of attention, to the Interest of the United States.

I have no information of the Goods you allude to, but what is contained in your communication, there can however be no doubt, but that these Goods, were intended by the United States, as presents for the Choctaw Indians, in my Character, as a Superintendant of Indian affairs, for the Southern Department, I esteem it a Duty to receive them, & to pay the Charges which have accrued thereon. You will be pleased therefore, to deliver to the order of Mr. Samuel Postlethwait a Merchant of Natchez, the Horses and Mules, which may be marked "U.S. Choctaw Presents," & this Gentleman, will make payment to Messrs. Gee, the expences which these Goods have subjected you to, & will furnish a Receipt, such Receipts for Packing & Delivering them as may be necessary.

So far as relates to your Demand for twenty one Dollars, against the Government of the United States, it is not in my power to act, — Matters of that kind, are properly Subjects to be Accounting Officers at the Seat of Washington, & I am persuaded, that upon presenting your Claim at the Treasury Department the amount thereof, will be promptly paid to your Agent or Attorney.

The letter enclosed for Mr. [illegible] I have forwarded to Washington, with your claims against the Government, & shall [illegible]

[illegible] Gee Esq.

William C. Claiborne

A Copy of a Letter from the Governor to [redacted]
Russell Bullitt Esq.

No. 3

Natchez, June 1st 1802

Sir,

Inclosed is a Letter to Mr Evan Jones, Merchant of New-Orleans, and you will oblige me, by causing a safe conveyance — That Gentleman has in his possession three Hogsheads & three Boxes containing some Presents for the Mr States for the Choctaw Indians; — I have requested him to deliver them to your Order, & you will confer an additional favor on me, if you would through your correspondent at Orleans, direct their transportation to this place. Mr Jones informs me, that the charges on these Goods will amount to about Nine Dollars, dependent of his commission for receiving & delivering them — I have taken the liberty to inform him that you would make provision for the payment of that sum, together with the customary Commissions. —

The costs accruing, not being finally ascertained, perhaps it would be best, to authorize your Correspondent to settle with Mr Jones, and to draw upon you for the amount; — I presume, a Bill upon a Merchant would be equally as acceptable to a Merchant at Orleans as the Cash, — But the most convenient mode, to you of adjusting this Business, will be agreeable to me. —

You may be assured, that the trouble & expence attending this Business, together with all Charges incident to the transportation of the Goods to Natchez, will be reimbursed you, but I must request you, to instruct your Correspondent to ask of Mr Jones a particular Statement of his Account, to [redacted] take the Receipt [illegible] to Mr Jones

and to [redacted] Private military
opportunity.

[redacted] Esq. D. Secy.

Sir,

[redacted] Secy.

Williams & C. Claiborne

Esqrs

Capt. Samuel Postlethwait

Merchant at Natchez

Copy of a Letter from the Governor, to Colo. John McRee

No. 4.

Fort Natchez, April 4th 1802

Sir,

Mr. Evan Jones of New Orleans, informs me of his late arrival at that Place, of three Hhds & Two Boxes marked "U.S. Chocktaw Indians" (containing Bows & Arrows) which had been shipped by some Person in Philadelphia, sometime in February or March last year 1801, on Board the Brig Nancy, Capt Earle and addressed to him; — that the Vessel had been taken into Providence & there condemned as prize, together with her Cargo, except the Hhds. & Boxes above mentioned. —

I have informed the Secretary at War of the Contents of [redacted] Letter, & [redacted] — In the meantime

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I have [illegible] the transportation of these Goods to [illegible] and the Cannon when shall be carefully Deposited [illegible] Stores, & probable, I shall receive more [illegible] instructions, as to the Disposition of [illegible] Articles, I have written you this Letter, & should be [illegible] to receive your Answer.

With respect
Your Most
Obed. Hble Servt
William C. C. Claiborne

(Signed)

Colo. Wm. Wilkinson

A Letter from Captain Shamburgh of the Army to the Governor.

Camp 10 Miles North of Fort Stoddert
June 7th 1802

Sir,

I was directed by General Wilkinson to [illegible] to your Excellency, the Brass Field-Piece, Eighty Rounds [illegible] Shot, and Eighty Flannel Cartridges filled with 1½ pounds [illegible] Powder each, for said Piece of Ordnance.

Lieutenant Wilson the Bearer of this has [illegible] above named Military Stores in Charge & Directed him [illegible] Time to open Them — and I have to beg you will [illegible] for your Signature to the Receipt annexed to one of the [illegible] here enclosed — the Duplicate is for the information of the [illegible] who may take Charge of these Stores — and I [illegible] most profound respect

[illegible] Excellency's [illegible] Obedient & [illegible] Servt.

His Excellr
Gover. Claiborne

(Signed) [illegible]
Lieut. U.S. Rifle Regt.

A Copy of [illegible] Captain [illegible]
Shawanoe Bayou [illegible] April 12th 1802 —

Sir

The Military Stores which you committed to the care of Lieutenant Wilson, have been safely delivered
to me. Receipt for the same is herein enclosed you. —
When the Troops under your Command shall
have reached this Neighbourhood, I promise myself the
happiness of seeing you at my House —
With great Respect,
I am Sir,
your Humble Servt.
William C. C. Claiborne

Signed

Capt. Shawanoe
2d U.S. Regt.

The Brass Fieldpiece, with its apparatus, together
with a Stand of Arms, the property of this Government, are to be delivered
to the use of his Company of Artillerists Artificers
Lieut. or obtained from Captain Clark the following Rec't.

Invoice of Ordnance & Military Stores received from Lieut
Wm. C. C. Claiborne, Esquire Governor of the Mississippi
Territory — Natchez 12th April 1802.

| | | |

[illegible] the above named Ord[illegible]
Military Stores for the use of the [illegible] Company
at [illegible], which I promise to return to [illegible]
the Governor for the time being, when demanded.

(Signed.) Sam.l Tod Whittemore

The remaining 30 Stand of Arms were
left with Captain Pattison upon Application.

The Governor addressed a Letter (of which the
following is a Copy) to each Member of the Houses of
Assembly.

Washington April 16th 1808

Dear Sir,

On the 26th Instant I expect you will
assemble, for Consulting the Legislature at the Town
of Washington, on Monday the 3rd Day of May
next.

Lest that Proclamation may not have
reached you, I have written this Letter, to invite you
to be present at your attendance.

With great Respect
I am Dear Sir
Your Humble Servt

(Signed) William R. Reed

The [illegible] Letter
to Captain James [illegible] Merchant
of Natchez.

Washington April 10th 1802.

Sir

The prevalence of the Small-pox at Orleans has excited considerable alarm among the Citizens of this Territory & it is greatly feared, that this contagious Disease, will extend to our Settlements; — its introduction at anytime might probably prove calamitous, but at this particular period, when the Militia are so generally and necessarily employed in agricultural pursuits, it would indeed be a real misfortune. — I flatter myself therefore, that every good Citizen who may have intercourse with Orleans or other places infected will use every precaution to avoid the communication of the Contagion, & confidently expect that the Merchants of Natchez in particular, and persons to vend or expose for Sale, any Peltry or woollen Cloths, which may be directly imported from Orleans, during the existence of the Small-pox, at that Town: — I have understood that these Articles, will undergo the Injection, and that by this means the Small-pox has been frequently communicated to distant places.

Militia are draughted for three Months to commence the 15th of this Inst to the Mississippi Territory, & you are desired, that the Public good, will require their services here, to select a proper situation on

[illegible]

The President addressed the following Le
William Dunbar Esquire.

Washington June 10th 1802

Dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 11th Instant,
delivered to me, by Mr. Carter, — I should i
mediately have answered it, but was really, too u
well, to attend to any kind of Business. —

I think with you, that the introduction
Small-pox, would at this particular period, be a
misfortune, and that every precaution ought to be ta
to prevent its approach. —

The Law you allude to, relati
to Contagious Diseases, has not been repealed, but before
the Governor could act under that Law, he must receive
information from some Physician within the Territ
that a contagious Disorder, is at some House, in the
or Country, or on board of a Boat, or Vessel, at or ne
the shores of the Territory." — Now Sir, no such inform
tion has been communicated, & the Chief Justice of
Territory (with whom I advised) accords with me
opinion that in the present State of things, I can pr
no Regulations, which the Citizens would be bound t
form to. — I have however, recommended the Inhabi
of Natchez, not to send, or expose for Sale, any
Furs, or Woollen Cloths, which may have been imp
directly from Orleans, and I did also address a Lett
of this Nature, on which She must particularly insist
not to introduce the Infection into her Family. —

I am [illegible] Sir
[illegible] would not be required to, but by [illegible]
and Letter [illegible] the Citizens [illegible]

I would be [illegible] the Succession
Matter can be [illegible] Disappointed
Mrs Poe will not [illegible] Persecutions
unfortunate, if [illegible] must be regretted
by the unfortunate Object [illegible] own part I
Should think the Citizens would be benefited,
were they immediately to [illegible] and raise by Subscrip-
tion a Fund, to employ a Confidential Character
to proceed Direct to Kentucky, & procure the
Matter. — From the account I have received
of the Corpse, it is safe at all Seasons of the
Year I do think in its Operation, as before to require
either Nursing or Confinement. —

Mrs Claiborne & myself
would be very happy to See yourself, Lady & Family
at our little Cottage; — Mrs Claiborne is at pre-
sent Confined, but the prospect of her Speedy restora-
tion to Health, is very flattering; — She has recent-
ly presented me with a Sweet little Daughter, an
event which has added greatly to the happiness of
us both. — Accept my best Wishes. —

I am Dear Sir,
Your Obliged Servt

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

William Dunbar Esquire

The following is a copy of the Letter from
[illegible] referred to

Mr

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Jan.

January 23d 18[illegible]

Jan.

That under auth. of the President of the United States, as well from a sense of duty, as from conviction and sound policy, that our future measures in our Indian Affairs should be unexceptionably pursued for carrying into effect the benevolent views & Conditions relative to the Indians Nations within the Territories of the United States. — The proceedings made by Congress, under the head of Intercourse with the Indians, and for establishing Trading Houses among them &c. have for their object the Civilization & establishment of humane & friendly relations between the United States & the different Nations of Indians & the introduction of Civilization by the gradually introducing the arts of Husbandry and domestic Manufactury among them. — The President is more induced to use all the means in his power for effecting the foregoing objects, from the happy effects already produced in several of the Indian Nations, by the Industry of the Agents among them. —

With a view of giving every assistance in the Power of the Executive, to the measures already adopted relative to the Indians generally, the President considered it necessary to make the following Nominations. —

That the Governor of the North Western Territory and Governor Harrison of Indiana and Mississippi Territory, in their respective capacities as Agents for the Indian Nations, should consider themselves as Superintendants of the Indian affairs within their respective

[illegible] Instructions, & will from [illegible] time to time give [illegible]
such Sub Agents as may be necessary for ascertaining
any facts or circumstances relative to the Indian Affairs
or the conduct of such Sub Agents, & for communicating
information, which they may be required by him, & to give
all such Sub Agents such instructions and directions
from time to time as may be found necessary and
not incompatible with the Laws, or instructions given
by the immediate Direction of the President of the
United States.

The Sub Agents and Agents of
Factories will correspond with the respective Gov-
ernors of the Territories in which they may be
placed, & communicate generally with the Depart-
ment of War through that Channel, and consider them-
selves under the general Direction of the Governor respective-
ly. And Temporary or Sub Agent or Agents of Factories
will regularly make report once at least in every
three Months to the Governor and to the Secretary
of War of all Circumstances relating to their Agen-
cy, with a Correct Statement of all expences in-
curred under their direction, which returns should
be made from a Journal accurately & correctly
kept by the Sub Agents of all occurrences worthy no-
tice relating to Cessions, Complaints, Receptions
&c. including Intercourse, whatever may relate to
the progress of Civilization among the Indians, &
such remarks as their knowledge may enable them
to make, relative to the Nat-
ural Genius, the Disposition, & the Traffic
of the Indians, and Diseases of the
[illegible]

will make a correct Return of the State of the Troops, & the Sales & Receipts &c, & the Amount of the Securities in which they shall be invested, on the three Months, noticing the circumstances propo[sed] Commencement relating to the Rise & Quantities of [Cotton] received from time to time & will transmit a du[plicate] thereof to the Secretary of War. Gov. Hawkins and the Agent of the Factories at Tellico on Tenne[ssee] and in Georgia will communicate immediately with the Secretary of War as usual.—

I have the honor to be
with Sentiments of Esteem
Your Humble Servt.

(Signed) W. Claiborne

His Excellency
William C. C. Claiborne Esqr.

To the above Letter the Governor returned the following

Answer.—

M. T. Natchez April 19th 1802.—

Sir,

On last evening I had the honor to receive
Letter of the 23rd ult. February last.—

So far as may depend upon me Co-ope[ration] no exertion shall be wanting, to carry into complete
the benevolent views of the General Government, rela[tive] to the Indian Nations within the Territories of the
States, and such communications from the Executive
shall be as soon [illegible] to me, shall ena[ble]

The progress of Civilization among the Cherokees, Chickasaws, and upper Creeks, gives a hope that the Indians within our Limits may ultimately be rescued from a State of Barbarism, & to contribute to the attainment of an object so interesting to humanity, would be to me a source of great gratification. — The Choctaws are indeed, generally involved in Savage life, but even among them, a Spirit of Industry has recently appeared, — & the cultivation of the Soil is becoming the principal employment of several Families, —

If my Agency be extended to the Indians included within the bounds of this Territory, the Choctaws and lower Creeks would fall under my Inspection; — but from the general tenor of your Communication, I understand it as the intention of the President to commit to Colo. Hawkins's care the whole of the Creeks, & until otherwise instructed, I shall confine my Superintendance to the Choctaws.

I will thank you to enclose me Copies of such Laws in relation to the Indians, as may be passed by the present Congress, and also of the Instructions which have been given to the Agents residing within the Chickasaw Nation; — the early possession of these Documents, will the better enable me, to advance the views of Government. —

In my Letter of the 5th instant, I advised you of the Situation of some Indians Cherokees & Orders, & that I had directed their Transportation to this place; — I expect their arrival in a few days, and shall be solicitous to receive Instructions from you, as to their distribution. —

I must renew my application for a Interpreter, and must insist upon there being one for the purpose of conducting an Interpreter; — every day's experience convinces

the Indians who Intermarried, [illegible] living with
Citizens of the States, & of Industry within their re-
-ceiving from [illegible] Talks.

If the U.S. Treaty with the Cho-
-ctaws do not Fix Definite Limits to the Boundary,
Dispute without a line to mark the Boundary Line
-tween them and the United States, it will serve
prevent trespasses upon Indian Lands the fruit
Source of discontent.

With Sentiments of Esteem
and respect.
I have &c
your most Ob. Servt.
William C. C. Claiborne

Signed
The Honble
Secretary of War
City of Washington

A Copy of Letter from the Secretary of State
to the Governor.

Department of State.
Washington 22nd July 1802

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a Commission
Minting Daniel Latimore a Member of the Legislative
Council of the Mississippi Territory, in the room of [illegible]
Bingaman, & request that it may be forwarded to him

With much respect
I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. Servt.
James Madison

Signed
His C. C. Claiborne Esqr

The following is my Answer to the foregoing Letter.—

N. Y. Natchez, April 24th 1802.—

Sir,

On the 18th Instant I received your Letter of the 22nd of February, covering a Commission for Doctor Daniel Satinoux, as a Member of the Legislative Council of the Mississippi Territory.—

This Commission has been delivered to Doctor Satinoux, and I have the pleasure to inform you that he accepts of the appointment;— this Gentleman unites to pure Republicanism, handsome Talents & an honest Heart.—

The utmost harmony still continues to exist, between the Subjects of Spain at Orleans and the Citizens of the United States who trade to that Port.— I observed with great pleasure in a late Northern paper, a Message from the President to Congress, in which he recommends the establishment of an Hospital at New Orleans;— the principles of Humanity & of sound Policy, call loudly for an Institution of that Kind:— Our Citizens often descend the Mississippi, at an unhealthy Season of the Year, and many lives are lost at Orleans, for the Sick, and sometimes for the necessaries of life.—

With prospects so gloomy, the enterprising Citizens of the Western Country, reluctantly venture down the Mississippi during the Spring & Summer Months, and the difficulty & expence of procuring Hands, become so great, that contemplated Voyages are sometimes given up, or if prosecuted the Hands employed are too few to ensure the safety of the Vessel, while on its Passage;— these inconveniences would be a great measure removed by the establishment of a convenient Hospital at Orleans, for the reception of Sick Seamen

1811

disabled Americans

Sixth Section of Sixteenth Congress

State of

Mississippi Territory

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble

James Madison

Secretary of State

A Copy of a Letter from the Governor to Colo. Daniel Burnet of Claiborne County.

Town of Washington June 27th 1802.

Sir,

I have received information, that a set of Pirates and Robbers, who attrocately infest the Mississippi River, and the Road leading from this District to Tennessee, encamp at or near the Walnut Hills, on the County of Claiborne; a certain Samuel Mason & a Man by the Name of Hardy, are said to be the Leaders of said Banditti, — they attempted in a hostile manner to board the Boat Colo. Joshua Baker, between the mouth of Yazoo and the Walnut Hills, but were prevented by Colo. Baker making a Show of Arms, and Manifesting a great Firmness. —

These Men must be arrested, the Peace of Country, the Interest of Individuals, & Humanity [illegible] put them Down, —

Crimes of Horse [illegible] many [illegible] ain [illegible]
of Secrecy, & Mason is meant [illegible] betrayed, — that
these Sons of Rapine & Murder are [illegible] to [illegible]
Lenge, we may expect daily to hear of [illegible] Scenes to the
Loss & Distress of our Fellow Citizens. —

The Militia of your Regiment now [illegible]
Organized, I presume it will not be in your power to
Execute (Hostile) a Military Order, I have therefore
only request, that you will immediately endeavour to
procure 15 or 20 Men as Volunteers, and place your self
at their Head, of some Confidential Character at their Head. —

This little force will then proceed to the Walnut
Hills, & after making due examination & enquiry at that
place, they will examine the woods in the Neighbourhood
of the Mississippi as high up as the Yazoo; & if you
should fall in with Mason & his Party, you will
use all the means in your power to arrest them, or any
of them, and I desire, that the Person or Persons so
arrested, may immediately be conveyed under a strong
Guard to Natchez. —

I hope that the honor of taking these Lawless Men, will be confined on the Citizens of your Neighbourhood, — Should they succeed, I presume they will receive a very generous Reward. —

I have written to Lieutenant Gen[illegible]
[illegible] upon this Subject, & it is probable, he will
give you all the Aid in his power. —

With great Respect & Esteem
I am Sir,
your Most Ob[illegible]
William C. C. Claiborne

(P.S.) In your enlistment, have an eye to the [illegible]
[illegible] & the Sons of Liberty. —

Letter from the Governor to Lieutenant [illegible]

Relative Commanding a Detachment of the United States Troops at the Grindstone Ford on Claiborne County ——

Town of Washington April 27th 18[illegible]

Sir,

Mistake

I have received information that the [illegible] from this to Jonesboro, in search of a Party of Robbers, among whom are a Certain Samuel Mason a certain Wiley Harpe, — Men who have long been [illegible] to Murder & Plunder ——

I doubt not, but you will give all the

Sir,

A few days since, as Colo Joshua Baker was ascending the Mississippi, he was attacked by a Set of Robbers between the Mouth of Yazoo River & the Walnut Hills; This Banditti is said to be commanded by a certain Mason, a certain Wiley Harpe who have for years past been in the habit of Committing with impunity Murder and Robberies. —

I am particularly solicitous, that these persons should be arrested & brought to punishment, I have written to Colo. Daniel Burnett requesting him to be a small Party of Troops to the Walnut Hills to assist in Search of the Offenders, — I hope you will give Burnett all the assistance in your Power. — If you should furnish him with a Sergeant & 12 Men, you will be rendering a great Service to the Civil Authority. —

James Mason is well known in this [illegible] as is also Son of his, by the name of [illegible], who is [illegible] reported to be connected with [illegible]

probable, that they may be [redacted] on near the Mississippi Territory, at that place the Wife of Silas Dinsmore resides. —

With respectful Esteem
I am Sir,
Your Most Obt. Servt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Lieutenant J. Pennick
of the 3d U.S. Regiment

A Letter from the Governor to the Officer Commanding the United States' Troops near the Mouth of Bear Creek on the Tennessee River.

Town of Washington April 27th 1802.

Sir,

I have received information that the Road from this Territory to Tennessee, is infested by a Parcel of Robbers, among whom are a certain Samuel Mason, and a certain Wiley Harpe; men who have long been detested to Mankind.

I doubt not, but you will give all the protection in your power to the Citizens who may be travelling through the Wilderness, & should you, or any of your Men receive information of any Mischief being done or attempted on the Citizens, you will immediately order such Force as you may think necessary to secure the Offenders, & bring them forward, under your

[illegible] to the Civil Authority.

With great respect &c
I am Sir
your Most &c
William C. C. Claib

A Copy of a Letter from the Governor to Col
John McKee

Natchez May 1st 1802

Dear Sir,

I have received information, th
Negro of whose death, I acquainted you of, in
last Letter, was murdered by an Indian who
on the Mucklasaw Town; — my information
through the channel of some Choctaws, now
this District, will you make further enquiry
this subject, and inform me, the result.

I am Dear Sir,
in great haste
your friend &c

Signed William C. C. Claib

Colo. John McKee
Agent in the
Choctaw Nation.

A Copy of a Letter from the Secretary to Wm McLean
McCormick, Merchant at Natchez.

Town of Washington May 1st 1802

Dear Sir,

I am extremely solicitous to learn the situation of our Small-pox Patients on this morning. —

I am fearful that they may experience some injury from the Dews at Night, and the damp ground, & it is greatly my desire that these inconveniences may be remedied as soon as possible; — Will you be willing therefore as to request Mr Bashford, to have some planks carried to the Encampment (on the course of this day) and employ a Person to erect on them for the sick men a Comfortable Place to lay on, and a day Shelter over them; — Mr Bush has some Plank on the Road, which he intended for his Fence, and which he promised to lend me, on this occasion; they will answer the purpose very well. —

When we consider the fatigue which these men have undergone, since they were inoculated, & the manner in which they have been exposed to the heat of the Sun, and the Dews & Rains at Night, there is ground to fear, that the disorder may be unfavorable, & I am inclined to think the severe Medicine now is procured, the better; — Will you therefore be good enough to engage the attendance of one of the Mr Swans, and get him to wipe the Cases

I must confess, that the idea, of leaving Sent[illegible] [illegible] Mortals in the Woods, [illegible] on a sick Bed is [illegible] to my feelings; — But the Safety of your Servts required the measure indispensable, & all that I can do, is, to render their Situation as comfortable as the nature of the case will permit. —

Mr. Bashford has been instructed to attend upon you for every necessary Purpose as an Invalid Man, — but he might not be sufficiently prudent. I wish you would occasionally attend yourself, and see what is wanting. —

I fear this Business, will be attended with trouble to you, but I am sure, you will not mind it with pleasure, since the cause of humanity is greatly involved. —

With sentiments of Esteem & Respect
I am Sir,
Your Most Hble Servt

(Signed) William C. G. Claiborne

To
Wm. W. Cornick
Merchant
Natchez

To [illegible] Esqr Treasr
for the Mississippi Territory

You will pay to Thomas Ferrall Printer
to the Territory, out of any Monies, which may
be in the Treasury, One hundred & forty four Dollars
being the Sum which is now due him, for printing
the Laws, & for so doing, this Instrument shall be
your sufficient Warrant. —

Given under my hand & Seal at the
Town of Washington, on the 1st day of May 1802. —

William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Mississippi Territory

A Letter from the Governor to Captain Shaumburgh of the Army

Town of Washington, May 3rd 1802

Sir,

In a letter from the Secretary of War, I am informed, that the President of the U. States has directed five hundred Rifle Guns to be forwarded to me from Philadelphia, by the route of New Orleans and also three hundred Muskets to be delivered to me at Fort Adams, on my receiving for them. —

I consider it convenient to receive those Arms, until then to retain a convenient House out of the Limits of Adams, and Loan Invested with a small Force to guard them until they are distributed to the Militia Companies by the Government. —

I have [illegible] to request, that you will [illegible]
[illegible] Militia. [illegible]

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or thereabouts to this Town, in Order, that they
there be to erect a suitable Block House, for the
=castion of the Arms, above mentioned, and the
Officer be directed to comply with such instruct
as he may from time to time, receive from me

With respect &c &c.

Sam Hc

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Capt. B. Steinbergh

A Communication from the Governor to the two Houses of Assembly.

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Council & of the House of Representatives.

I am persuaded that an early attention, to several subjects of Legislation, will be promotive of the Public good; but being aware of your solicitude, to render the present Session as short as duty to your Constituents will permit, I shall forbear to recommend any business which can safely be postponed.

The act which provides for the Publication of the Laws and Journals of the Legislature, will not I fear prove fully commensurate to that object; — from a want of Types or of sufficient substance, the Public Printer is engaged, so slowly in the work, as to evidence the necessity of making further & better provision upon this subject for the future. — The speedy and certain promulgation of the proceedings of each succeeding Assembly, is due to Justice to the Government, and to our Constituents; — it would afford the means of general information, and present the surest barrier against the effects of misrepresentation & misconstruction. —

A revision in part of the act regulating the Militia seems to me expedient; — the [illegible] seem insufficient to

[illegible] the extent of the merits, or defects; — In
[illegible], it is believed, well adapted to the local situa
of the Territory, and to the [illegible] of Justice
between Man and Man; — that the details of the
Bill are defective, is indeed certain, for perfection
Subjects so complex, is not within the reach of human
wisdom; — But its inaccuracies will best be discover
in the progress of its operation, & the necessary correction
[illegible] then, with greater certainty be applied, —
will however first be indispensable, to make a different
more convenient arrangement of the times for holding
Courts; — the Superior Court for Adams District &
County for Jefferson County follow so close on each
that they will probably be in Session, at one and the
time, and the Superior Court for Jefferson District
the Elections for Representatives to the General
commence on the same days; — These interfer
(if suffered to continue) will create general inconv
ence to the Citizens, and may produce an obstru
in the streams of Justice. — You will also find it
advisable, to make a more just apportionment
number of Jurors, to be returned from the different
Counties, to the Superior Courts; — At present the
Superior Court is directed to nominate thirty
Jurors to the Superior Court, a regulation which
seems scarcely consistent with the number Grant
— While on the Subject of the Judiciary, you
to observe, that the whole mass of Laws
[illegible] of Evidence, or any good intelligence
either in any Court of the System; — In these Courts
the case is often heard [illegible]
the parties, are [illegible] sent with the Cause

good, ought to be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
and always to the best [illegible] and [illegible] which
on the greatest degree, attach the affections of the
People. —

The prevalence of the Small-pox at Fort-Pitt
and our constant Communication & Intercourse with that
Post & exposing this Territory to imminent danger of
receiving the Contagion, a general alarm has pre-
vailed among the Citizens for several Weeks past; —
The want of Authority has prevented me from
taking the measures best calculated to prevent effectual
the introduction of this pestilence; — but any time
it might prove destructive, but at this Season of the
Year, when the People are so generally and necessarily
engaged in Agricultural pursuits, it would indeed be
a great Misfortune. —

Also attempts have been made to
persuade ourselves of that amicable disposition on their
part Towards us, the Indians on Ohio post, but Facts
to [illegible] you, that the Blues others have proceeded,
in their Hostile, or warring [illegible] to attack Forts,
the last attempt fatal of success, & as yet Resisted
whether the Spies of the second will be more fortunate. —

Reasons for the Legislature to determine for
or against the Location, to pass a general Militia Law,
and other powers ought to be vested with the Executive
to prevent the Extermination of the Small-pox,
other Infectious Diseases, — to Law upon this Subject,
was passed under the Head of Quarantine, was
found unsuccessful, but in fact unpracticable for
as the Power to inspect & remove, or prevent
Intercourse. —

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

among the objects of general concern which [illegible]
are the attention of Legislators, there is one of high
importance, which has not yet been alluded to in the
Speech; — I mean a System of Public Education.
And I shall be sorry to see the Sessions of the first
Legislature chosen by the People conclude, without
some provision being made, upon this interesting subject.
Every Government which aims at the general
and happiness, ought to direct its views to the advance-
ment of Literature, as the most efficient means
and the very preservation of a Republican Govern-
ment in its genuine purity & energy, depends on
a diffusion of knowledge among the Body of the
People invested with elementary duties
become fit subjects for despotic sway; but when
informed of their Rights, they will never fail
them to be respected by the Public Authorities.
I am sure no source of pleasure can
this Country, it will enable it daily to enhance the
Literary Institutions; — The rapid and unconi-
growth of wealth amongst us will indeed be a blessi
if it should be accompanied in a like ratio,
improved cultivation; — But if wealth be not
used as an Instrument to promote knowledge
national refinement, there is danger, that it may
produce Luxury & Vice in the rising Generation,
become the means of corruption both Public &
I submit therefore for consideration, the
[illegible] of establishing uniform Legislative Courses, to the educa-
of our Youth. — A Seminary of Learning,
[illegible] of some distinction, Central to the
the Country, fostered by the Government,
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] year [illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] year [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] through Us.

I shall have [illegible] Occasions,
some other matters, which it is proper to lay before
you, and will conclude my present communication,
with assurances of my entire confidence in your
Patriotism, and of my faithful Co-operation in
every measure, which promises to advance the
Interest of the Mississippi Territory.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Washington May 4th 1802

A Message from the Governor to the Legislative Council and House of Representatives

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
the House of Representatives —

The enclosed Resolution of the House of
Representatives of the United States, which
transmitted to me, by the Honorable the Speaker
of that Body, with request upon the death
of the worthy fellow Citizen & Honorable Samuel
late a Delegate from this Territory to Congress
it will become a duty of the two Houses
of Assembly, to supply the Vacancy occasioned by the Gentlemans decease — In
unfortunate event, has deprived the United
States Territory, of a valuable friend,

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

Mississippi May 12th 1802 —

Message from the Governor to the House of Representatives of the United States

[illegible] your [illegible] [illegible] here
[illegible] and [illegible] the
[illegible]
[illegible] Secret-

(.) Attest, Blaconr

In the House of Representatives
of the United States,
Friday, the 12th. of March, 1802.

Resolved, that the Speaker of this House address a letter to the Governor of the Mississippi Territory, to inform him of the death of Narsworthy Hunter, the Delegate from the said Territory in this House, in order that measures may be taken to supply the vacancy occasioned thereby.

Extract from the Journals,

(Signed) John Beckley Clerk

A Copy of a Letter from the Governor to Colonel Enoch Anderson of Adams County.

Dear Sir, Washington May 6th 1808

Dear Sir,

The Major of Brigade, has furnished me, with a Copy of the returns you have made, of the Officers of the Battalion of Companies Districts, in this County.

The punctuality, and correctness with which this duty has been performed by yourself, and the two Majors, is highly pleasing to me, and does yourself and them much credit.

Note is taken to each district, and to effect which Officer attention to Military duties, I am informed, that the persons qualifying the different Companies, shall nominate (by election) such persons, as they would wish me to Commission as Lieutenants, and Ensigns & my determination is to appoint every person so recommended, unless there exist some valid objection either in his Public or Private character.

You have chosen a present a convenient place, for the citizens subject to Militia duty, and residing within the Bounds of Battalion districts, to assemble, and recommence their Company Officers, you can instruct the Major to give notice of the time when, viz. three times, the Companies are to assemble, and to attend at said Companies meetings in order, that the

may be conducted [illegible] ...ary, the
Persons recommended ... proceed to your
said Through ... Wish ... respect & Esteem.
... Sir, Your ... Servt.

(Signed.) William R. C. Claiborne

Gov. Benjah Cowan.—

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a Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of War to the Governor.—

War Department
March 10th 1802.—

Sir,

Your representation relative to the unpleasant condition of the Militia of the Mississippi Territory, and subsequent near the peaceable situation of the Country, has induced the President of the United States to direct Instructions to be given to the Secretary of the Territory to cause the Militia Engaged in the Service of the Government to be discharged, and also the three Regiments ordered to Natchez and the Fort Stephens, as soon as they can be replaced by the Militia and Militia to be raised in the Territory. To the Militia, we must look for the defence of our Frontiers, and [illegible]

[illegible] the favor of [illegible] to
the [illegible] to your Excellency. I have [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

(Signed) H. Deschenes

His Excellency

William C. C. Claiborne

Governor of the Mississippi Territory

To the above Letter the Governor wrote the following Answer

M. F. [illegible] March 10th 1802.

Sir,

I received by the last Mail your letter of [illegible]
Secretary of the 10th of March, acquainting me that the
Executive had thereto fore confirmed [illegible]
Commissions from Mr. Deschenes to Messrs. [illegible]
be delivered to you, and also their Commissions
which I am to transmit to them. [illegible]
[illegible] to the Militia of this Territory [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

United States of America.

With [illegible] & &c

[illegible]

[illegible] Sent.

Signed Williams C. C. Claib

The Honble

Henry Dearborne

Secretary of War

for the United States

A Copy of a Letter from the Governor to Major Isaac Bullen & Nathaniel Chrisfield of Washington County, a Copy of which was sent to each Gentleman.

Town of Washington May 11th 1802

Sir,

I have enclosed you a Copy of a Letter which has lately been received by the Governor from the Secretary of War of the United States to Washington County, I wish you to make the enquiries generally mentioned in the Letter & the best information you can obtain as to the Number of Men in this County capable of bearing Arms, their Names should be transmitted to Governor Claiborne, the Time of the Election, general Muster, from the different Districts, the Number of the Militia of each Company &

[illegible] Elected [illegible] Senate
[illegible] Senate.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

A Copy of a Letter from the Governor to the Secretary of State for the United States.

M. T. Near Natchez May 12th 1802

Sir, In Conformity to a Proclamation which I issued on the 5th day of April 1802, the Legislature of this Territory met in Session on the 3rd Instant and on the day following I made to the two Houses a Communication of which the enclosed is a Copy. —— On Yesterday the Legislature adjourned, having acted upon the different subjects which I recommended, and made several very wholesome Laws, among which is one Act to establish a College in the Mississippi Territory. —— The Act declares that this College shall bear the name of "Jefferson College in honor of Thomas Jefferson President of the United States and President of the American Philosophical Society." ——

A Lotte has been laid off Washington, about six miles from Natchez as a Place upon by Law to the Place where the [illegible] Sessions of the Legislature shall be holden. —— It [illegible] is determined [illegible]

[illegible] more

well supplied with excellent Spring water, and
to be the healthiest Spot in the District.

During the late Session of the Legislature,
Wm. Thomas M. Green was elected a Delegate
to Congress, to supply the Vacancy occasioned by Mr.
Chambers death; — Mr. Green is a respectable and
wealthy Farmer, warmly attached to the Union
State, & to the fundamental principles of Republican Liberty, possessing
tolerable correct judgment, but without the advan-
tage of a good Education.

With sentiments of great
Esteem & Respect
I am Sir,
Your Hum. Servt.
Williams C. C. Claiborne

Signed

The Honble
James Madison
Secretary of State for the U.S.

The following is a Copy of a Letter from the
Governor to the Secretary of War for the Mississ

M. F. San Antonio Nov. 14th

Sir

The Indian Goods which were mentioned
my Letter of the 8th and 19th of April have not yet
reached Natchez, they are known on the River to
expected there daily. — Mr. Innes's Bill of Cost which
ties at Orleans, amounted to One hundred & thirty
which has been paid at my request by Thomas Pa
Merchant at Natchez, and the Money Receipts taken
for the Same together with the Account & Receipt
Orleans & Natchez, will be [illegible]

I shall [illegible] you [illegible] of Mr Crowninshield.
I have not yet received [illegible] John Q. Adams
to the Letter I wrote him [illegible] subject on the
subject of those Goods, a Copy [illegible] accompanied my
communication to you of the [illegible] of April. ——

I have the pleasure to inform you, that
the Choctaws continue friendly, and that most of those
from Indians who recently deserted themselves, by
begging & plundering on our Settlements, have returned
to their own Lands. ——

By a Gentleman immediately from
Orleans I learn, that an opinion still prevails there,
that Louisiana is Ceded to France, but no official
information thereof had been received. ——

While Spain is on the harmony of footing
with some of her dependencies, I wish to find the
United States could negociate for East & West Florida
including the Mouth of the Mississippi, — This indeed
would be a great acquisition, and would be productive
of the most happy Political Consequences. ——

With great Respect & Esteem
I am Sir,
your mo: obt: Hble Servt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War for the
United States.

Sir, The following is a Copy of a Letter from His Excellency the Governor to the Honorable Judge Sitgreaves

Town of Washington May 22nd. 1802

Sir,

The Bearer Mr. Stephen Bullock, wishes a Licence to practice as a Lawyer in the several Courts in this Territory; — will you be good enough to examine him, and give me your opinion in writing as to the extent of his legal information. —

I take permission to send to you for examination, all future applicants for admission to the Bar, and your Opinion as to their fitness, will always be received with great respect by,

Sir,

Your Hble Servt.

Signed.

Attested G. G. Clark

[redacted] Secretary
of War &c. &c. &c.

Department
of State June 8th 1802

Sir,

From your representation of the state of Society at Natchez, and of the peculiar situation of the Territory, the President of the United States is of opinion that a Company of regular Troops may be spared from Fort Adams to be disposed of in the manner you have suggested. A block House and quarters for the troops will also be necessary at some healthy and convenient place. While the President is desirous of doing for our Citizens whatever is necessary for their safety and prosperity, he considers it to restrain all expences within just & reasonable bounds, It is therefore expected that the Materials and labor for these works will be furnished at such moderate and reasonable prices as a private Citizen would pay, these views of economy being prudently kept in Company will be pleased, for placing to effect the erecting the Buildings, together with such entrenchments as can be spared from that Post. The Block House and entrenching ground in the Vicinity of Water at one or two miles distance from the River should be selected for the Post and in the Necessity of the proposed Population, perhaps it may be prefer[illegible] to place the Post at a greater distance from the River, say three or four miles, the healthiness of the Situation should be considered an important object in selecting the [illegible] entrenchments for a Square with two Bastions [illegible] Water for the troops

Should be [illegible] inches thick and of the most
durable kind that can be conveniently procured
The floor may should be made somewhat
the Officers of the Fleet, except such hint
will be necessary for [illegible] the Troops &c
Lower Story may serve as a Store for the Garri
The Beds or Palliasses should be made sufficient
large to afford suitable accommodation to the
commanding Officers and Soldiers.— If suitable
Timber can be conveniently obtained for a Stock
it would be an object worth your attention as a
Retreat in case of danger for Women and Chil
One hundred and forty feet square would be
be sufficiently extensive. that however can be
Judged of on the Spot.—

It is considered that it may
proper and beneficial to consult with the Com
ding Officers of the Troops relative to the
for the above works.—

I have the honor to be
With esteem Your &c
Lt. Genl.

(Signed) H. Clinton

The Excellency
Major Gen.l C. Cornwallis

[illegible] Letter
the Governor the Treasurer Engineer
the Secretary of

War Department, May 24th 1802

Sir,

I am honored with the receipt of your
letter of the 5th Inst.

The stationing of a Company of
regular Troops at some Portion central to the Navi-
gation of the Territory, and the erecting of some
Works of Defence, to be appropriated also, as Places
of Deposit for Arms &c, are in my Opinion, prudent
Measures; — I flatter myself that no event will
arise, to disturb the peace of this distant Settlement;
but really in its present defenceless and exposed
situation, I should think myself unfaithful in the
Trust I hold, did I not suggest the propriety of placing
means of defence, within the reach of the People —
The Site, Materials and labour for
Fort &c. I will take care to obtain on such
reasonable and moderate terms, as a private
Citizen would pay, and so far as may depend upon
my Agency, I shall endeavour on all occasions, to
attend the Expences of Government to the most
within just and economical limits. — If there
be not the Cash for the Works contemplated,
will be far from considerable, the Company of Inf.y
ordered to [illegible] Posts [illegible]
be employed on those Fatigues, to erect the
Buildings and Palisades, at the Posts [illegible]
[illegible]
Sec. of

[illegible] for a sum [illegible]

I shall advise the Commanding Officer at Fort [illegible] the proper steps to be taken [illegible] upon the subject by the next Mail. I shall likewise cause a small Block House about fourteen feet square, to be raised, to afford temporary accommodations for the Militia, until the Stockade, about fourhundred yards in my house, and within the same distance of Fort Washington, the present Seat of Government for the Territory. I leave funds in the hands for the Block House, and also the use of one Gun of Ground Tackle. Should the Secretary of War wish the Guns to be conveyed to the United States, the Contractor has agreed to do so, for Thirty five dollars.

The management of the Militia of this Territory, receives a great share of my attention. It is a troublesome undertaking but I shall persevere, until I effect a complete organization.

I have not yet learnt of the arrival of the Rifles at Orleans. It is my intention to dispose of the Muskets & Rifles first, and upon such Terms, as will remunerate the United States, the original Cost.

With great Respect and sincere Esteem I am Sir Your Most Obedient [illegible]

His Excellency [illegible]
Governor &c &c &c

[redacted] Governor
to the Secretary [redacted] United
[redacted] Mississippi Territory [redacted] of Washington
May 28th 1802.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a Manuscript Copy of the Laws passed at the last Session of the Territorial Legislature; — There being at present no Secretary in the Territory, (who Keeps the Laws of service having expired) the Laws are deposited with me for safe keeping. —

The acts passed at the Session, previous to the last, are got with the Printer; but I hope, the publication of them, will be completed in the course of next week, and if so, I will transmit you a Copy, by the next Mail. —

With great Esteem
I am Dear Sir
Your Mo. Hble Servt
William C. C. Claiborne

(Seal)

The Honble
Secretary of State
for the U. States